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No.

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1985

IN RE
GRAND JURY MATTER
ANTONI GRONOWICZ,

Petitioner,

VS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the First Amendment prohibits a federal criminal investigation of the truth or falsity of a book about important political and religious issues?

2. Whether the government has failed to demonstrate a compelling public interest to justify its encroachment on fundamental First Amendment rights?

3. Whether the grand jury's subpoena is unenforceable against petitioner in the absence of a showing that the evidence is not available from other sources?

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OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion delivered on June 24, 1985, by the Court of Appeals on rehearing en banc is reported at 764 F.2d 983, together with two concurring opinions and three dissenting opinions. All six opinions are reproduced in the appendix to this petition. An earlier opinion with one concurring opinion delivered by a panel of the Court, which reversed the District Court is reported in advance sheets at 755 F.2d 1044. It was vacated

when the Court granted rehearing en banc. The District Court, in holding petitioner in civil contempt on November 30, 1984, ruled from the bench, J.App. 238-63.* It did not deliver a written opinion with respect to the contempt or at any other stage of this case.

JURISDICTIONAL GROUNDS IN THIS COURT

The judgment sought to be reviewed affirmed an order of the District Court finding petitioner in civil contempt under the recalcitrant witness statute, 28 U.S.C. sec. 1826, for his failure to produce documents pursuant to

* References beginning "J.App." are to the Joint Appendix in the Court of the Appeals. References beginning "A" are to the Appendix to this petition. To avoid confusion, the page cites to the Joint Appendix in this Petition delete the prefix "A-" that was used in paginating the Joint Appendix, so that for example the reference "J.App. 238-63" in the text above refers to pages A-238 through A-263 of the Joint Appendix.

a grand jury subpoena. The judgment was dated and entered on June 24, 1985. 28 U.S.C. sec. 1254(1) is the statutory provision which confers jurisdiction on this Court to review the judgment in question by writ of certiorari.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution provides:

> Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The statute the government contends authorizes the investigation being conducted by the grand jury is the mail fraud statute, 28 U.S.C. sec. 1341, which reads in part:

Sec. 1341. Frauds and swindles

> Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or

fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises...for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice or attempting so to do... [uses or causes the mails to be used] shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

28 U.S.C. sec. 1826, the statute under which Antoni Gronowicz was found in civil contempt, reads in part:

Sec. 1826. Recalcitrant witnesses

(a) Whenever a witness in any proceeding before or ancillary to any court or grand jury of the United States refuses without just cause shown to comply with an order of the court to testify or provide other information, including any book, paper, document, record, recording or other material, the court, upon such refusal, or when such refusal is duly brought to its attention, may summarily order his confinement at a suitable place until such time as the witness is willing to give such testimony or provide such information. No period of such confinement shall exceed the life of--

(1) the court proceeding, or

(2) the term of the grand jury, including extensions,

before which such refusal to comply with the court order occurred, but in no event shall such confinement exceed eighteen months.

(b) No person confined pursuant to

subsection (a) of this section shall be admitted to bail pending the determination of an appeal taken by him from the order for his confinement if it appears that the appeal is frivolous or taken for delay. Any appeal from an order of confinement under this section shall be disposed of as soon as practicable, but not later than thirty days from the filing of such appeal.

* * *

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

This case arises from the principled refusal of petitioner Antoni Gronowicz to comply with a subpoena duces tecum issued to him by a federal grand jury in Philadelphia in August 1984, and thereafter modified, J.App. 5-7, 69-71. The subpoena was directed to petitioner as the author of God's Broker, a book about the current Pope, John Paul II, dealing with important and controversial political and religious issues. The subpoena sought petitioner's notes of interviews, correspondence, records of travel and other materials in ten broad categories all relating directly to the

truth of statements contained in the book.

Petitioner's resistance to the subpoena was based on his rights as an author, and most importantly on the ground that the First Amendment prohibited the government from compelling him to comply with a grand jury subpoena duces tecum issued for the repeatedly stated purpose of investigating the truth or falsity of the contents of his book. Petitioner refused to base his failure to comply with the subpoena on Fifth Amendment grounds. The American Civil Liberties Foundation and the Authors League of America, Inc. sought and were granted leave by the District Court (and later by the Court of Appeals) to participate in the case as amici curiae.

On November 30, 1984, following the District Court's denial of a motion by petitioner to quash the subpoena and

petitioner's failure to obey the District Court's subsequent order directing compliance, the District Court entered an order finding petitioner in civil contempt for failure to produce documents, and ordering petitioner to pay a fine of $500.00 per day, the first payment to be made on Monday December 3, 1984, J.App. 4. The District Court refused petitioner's request for a stay pending appeal. The Court of Appeals granted the stay before the first day's fine became payable and has continued to date both a stay of the fine and a stay of the issuance of its mandate.

On February 26, 1985, a panel of the Court of Appeals reversed the judgment of the District Court finding petitioner in contempt, ruling that the subpoena would not be enforced because the government's purpose was admittedly to probe the truth of the book and the

government failed to articulate an independent compelling interest, aside from an interest in preventing the fraud allegedly perpetrated through false statements in the book.

On April 26, 1985, the Court ordered the panel's opinion and judgment vacated and the case listed for rehearing en banc.

After the decision of the panel refused to countenance the subpoena as an investigation into the truthfulness of the book, the government disavowed this purpose. It claimed instead, in petitioning for rehearing, that it was investigating representations by the author to the publisher and the purchaser of video rights, representations that were however integral parts of the book itself, but never claimed petitioner misrepresented the contents of his book. The government

argued further that the fact that doubt would be cast on the accuracy of the book if the representations turned out to be false and fraudulent would be "of no constitutional consequence." (Petition for Rehearing at pp. 2, 14, 15).

On June 24, 1985, the Court of Appeals on rehearing en banc, divided 8-3, affirmed the District Court's order of civil contempt. Judge Gibbons, writing for the Court, concluded that because petitioner "could constitutionally be prosecuted for misrepresentations about the contents of God's Broker, the subpoena duces tecum was issued pursuant to a proper grand jury investigation,..." A12. The majority accepted the government's recasting of the purpose of the investigation.* It noted that there

*Four judges writing separately adhered to the view that the government was investigating the truth or falsity of the book, and that the investigation impinged on the exercise of core First Amendment rights.

was no support in the record for the contention of petitioner and amici that the investigation was not viewpoint-neutral, although noting that a lack of neutrality "would raise serious first amendment concerns that are not now before the court."A8.

There were two concurring opinions. Each raised caveats. Judge Garth's opinion argued that the majority's precise constitutional holding was limited to answering the question whether petitioner as a grand jury target had a first amendment evidentiary privilege to refuse to honor the subpoena duces tecum. The majority was not, in Judge Garth's view, passing upon the merits of a First Amendment challenge to the validity of any indictment or conviction that might result from the investigation, or the statute on which it might be predicated. A12-14.

Judge Becker, concurring, viewed the investigation as focusing on the truth of the book and thought that because core First Amendment rights were at stake, the government should be required to make a heightened Schofield showing to provide strong justification for the inquiry. A18. Judge Becker deemed inadequate the government's first two Schofield affidavits relied on by the District Court, A16, and very likely the third affidavit as well, noting at the argument en banc that it said petitioner "didn't spend 200 hours with the Pope" and questioning whether this was enough or whether it must claim "he never talked to the Pope." Transcript, p. 17, see also n. 1. at A17.*

* Schofield II, 507 F.2d 963 (3rd Cir.), cert. denied, 421 U.S. 1015 (1975). Although he viewed this as an appropriate case for a heightened Schofield showing, Judge Becker thought it unnecessary for the government to make the heightened showing because petitioner had "abjured" any Schofield claim. [continued]

Judge Sloviter, dissenting, forcefully advanced the position to which petitioner adheres -- that the First Amendment prohibits a grand jury investigation into the truth of God's Broker, stressing that the Court's opinion undermines First Amendment values by drawing too freely on civil libel cases in the absence of precedents and failing to recognize the role played by government and its ability to control and even manipulate the grand jury. As for the possibility of fraud, civil litigation affords ample protection for publishers and movie producers.

To the contrary, when asked during en banc argument whether a heightened Schofield showing was required, counsel answered "yes." Transcript at 16. In a series of hypotheticals presented to the District Court and the Court of Appeals, petitioner questioned the purpose of the government and suggested the government was serving purposes that were not viewpoint-neutral, thus putting in issue the adequacy of the government's showing of purpose, the third Schofield element.

Judge Hunter dissenting also held the government to its initial admissions that it was investigating the truth or falsity of the contents of the book. Given this focus, the government's claim that it was acting under the authority of the mail fraud statute did not provide sufficient compelling justification for the subpoena's impingement upon First Amendment rights.

To Judge Higginbotham dissenting it was "beyond peradventure" that the government was investigating the truthfulness of the contents of God's Broker and was not investigating "misrepresentations about the contents of published speech" as stated in the Court's opinion, A26, see A12. Although Judge Higginbotham thought petitioner could not resist the subpoena on First Amendment grounds, he believed petitioner could successfully invoke his privilege

as an author because the government could not make the three-part showing required to overcome the privilege, i.e. that an effort had been made to obtain the information from other sources, that petitioner is the only access to the information and that the information is crucial to any alleged mail fraud. A35-37.

God's Broker was published by the firm of Richardson & Snyder in April 1984. After printing and distributing 40,000 copies, the book was recalled in August 1984 by Snyder alone. Richardson opposed withdrawing the book. J.App. 142. It cannot be found in bookstores now, though Richardson seeks to republish the book after his arbritration with Snyder is final. Their firm was dissolved in August 1984. J.App. 146.

On July 9, 1984, petitioner commenced a civil action for damages in the United States District Court for the Southern

District of New York (84 Civ. 4830) against Thomas Leonard for breach of their contract for the production of a motion picture or television version of God's Broker. Mr. Leonard filed an answer essentially denying the allegations of the complaint and counterclaiming for recission, restitution, and compensatory and punitive damages. The action is pending in the discovery stage. Contrary to the statement in the majority opinion, A5, Julian Snyder, the one partner who repudiated God's Broker, has not brought a civil fraud suit against petitioner. There has been and is no litigation whatsoever pending between petitioner and Snyder.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

Introduction

> The power to investigate and the power to prosecute is the power to intimidate, it's the power to disrupt and it is certainly the power, perhaps, to intimidate an author from not publishing a book.
>
> from the argument of the United States Attorney before the court below en banc, transcript, page 22, quoted in the dissenting opinion of Judge Sloviter, A39-40.

This is apparently the first time in our history that a federal grand jury has issued a subpoena to the author of a book to probe the truth of its contents. The First Amendment absolutely prohibits any such interference by the federal government in the exercise of core First Amendment rights. Petitioner was fully justified in refusing to comply with the subpoena.

The majority opinion below not only fails to recognize that the First Amendment absolutely prohibits the grand jury's action, it treats this case like

any other criminal case without any recognition of its crucial First Amendment ramifications. The opinion allows the investigation against petitioner to proceed without requiring any heightened showing of justification, without requiring any demonstration of a compelling governmental interest sufficient to justify the impingement of First Amendment rights inherent in the investigation, and leaves to petitioner the heavy if not impossible burden of demonstrating that the investigation is not view-point neutral or otherwise lacking in good faith.

The majority opinion also fails to examine whether the subpoena seeks information that has been sought or can be obtained from other sources, and is of critical importance, and in so doing has neglected petitioner's privilege as an author which validates his refusal to

comply with the subpoena.

Given the scope of the mail fraud statute, the imprimatur placed by the Court below upon this investigation of petitioner and his book opens the way for the government to conduct a criminal investigation into the truth or falsity of virtually every book. The investigation thus approved is not at all the "narrow inquiry" claimed by the government in its petition for rehearing below, at p. 15. Books are invariably written for the purpose of being published and sold. All the government need do to investigate a book under the aegis of the mail fraud statute is to charge that the book contains false statements and that the falsity is part of a scheme to defraud because it is intended to enhance the book's publication and sale.

The opinion below is of utmost

importance and merits Supreme Court review because it fails to give effect to basic First Amendment protections to which authors like petitioner and their works are entitled, and because it opens the way to an unthinkable range of criminal investigation violative of First Amendment values.

The government expressed confidence below in the supervisory power of the courts and seemingly accepted the appropriateness of judicial intervention as a welcome corrective to possible grand jury abuse. The basic answer to this contention is that the First Amendment prohibits the investigation of petitioner and his book. Put differently, the investigation is abusive by definition. But if we accept that the investigation will be permissible if it is scrupulously conducted, and invalid if it is not, the

government overstates the protection to be afforded by the supervisory power. The reality is that the supervisory power of the federal courts over grand jury abuse is a relatively new and largely untried power, and that the executive branch is not especially receptive to judicial participation in grand jury proceedings as this case shows.

1. The First Amendment Prohibits a Federal Criminal Investigation of the Truth or Falsity of a Book about Important Political and Religious Issues.

The Court of Appeals erred fundamentally in holding that the federal mail fraud statute is a constitutionally permissible vehicle for a federal grand jury investigation into the truth of the contents of a book dealing with important public affairs. The First Amendment is violated if the mail fraud statute permits such a grand jury investigation.

The book under investigation in this

case deals with subject matter at the core of what the First Amendment was intended to protect. Among the book's topics are the Pope, the religious views of numerous political and religious leaders, unification of West and East Germany, alleged lapses of the CIA which caused the Pope to state the CIA could have prevented the assassination attempt on his life, the Pope's support for liberation theology, the geopolitical role of the Vatican and other matters of widespread public interest and controversy.

The government has conceded that all of the allegedly false statements under investigation appear in the book. Such statements are protected by the First Amendment. If such an inquiry were permitted, then any non-fiction book could potentially become the subject matter of a governmental investigation on a claim that the book itself included

false statements of fact, statements made as part of a scheme to defraud someone into publishing, filming, or merely buying the book, thereby converting the mail fraud statute into a law permitting a criminal investigation into the truth of any book the government chose to investigate.

By permitting the grand jury at the behest of the United States Attorney to conduct investigations into the truth of an author's published statements, the Court of Appeals' decision legitimizes a potent governmental weapon for the supression, intimidation and inhibition of free expression. The decision has the serious chilling effect of compelling authors to consider the burdens, expense, and risks of possible investigation and prosecution -- even for writing statements they ardently believe or know to be true-- if their writings may provoke

controversy or antagonize the politically influential.* Authors and publishers will be pressured into self-censorship because of "the difficulties of adducing legal proofs" that their statements are true, or, if they are mistaken, that they did not know them to be false.**

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* "The threat of sanctions may deter...almost as potently as the actual application of sanctions." N.A.A.C.P. v. Button, 371 U.S. 415, 433 (1963). "[I]nhibition as well as prohibition against the exercise of precious First Amendment rights is a power denied government." Lamont v. Postmaster General, 381 U.S. 301, 309 (1965) (concurring opinion). Also see N.A.A.C.P. v. Alabama, 357 U.S. 449 (1958) which reversed a finding of contempt for the refusal of an organization to produce membership lists in compliance with a state court's order.

**Cf. New York Times v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. 254, 279 (1964). Also see Speiser v. Randall, 357 U.S. 513, 526 (1958): "Where particular speech falls close to the line separating the lawful and the unlawful, the possibility of mistaken factfinding -- inherent in all litigation -- will create the danger that the legitimate utterance will be penalized. The man who knows that he must bring forth proof and persuade another of the lawfulness of his conduct necessarily must steer far wider of the unlawful zone than if the [continued]

The Court of Appeals' decision has unsettled First Amendment law. This is apparently the first time in American history that a grand jury has subpoenaed an author's notes, records, and work product for the purpose of investigating the truth of his writings. Certainly neither counsel nor the Courts below have found a reported decision involving such a grand jury subpoena. This unprecedented governmental investigation and subpoena strike at the heart of the First Amendment. The degree of abridgment of First Amendment rights and the potential social harm is greater than governmental approved prior restraint, or book burning, threatening as it does imprisonment.

State must bear these burdens. This is especially to be feared when the complexity of the proofs and the generality of the standards applied, cf. Dennis v. United States, 341 U.S. 494, provide but shifting sands on which the litigant must maintain his position."

A prosecutor's unlimited opportunity to assault any free expression through an open-ended use of an expansively interpreted mail fraud statute is far more threatening to First Amendment interests than criminal libel laws, since under mail fraud so interpreted any allegedly culpable statement of fact may be investigated and prosecuted, rather than only defamatory statements as in criminal libel. Criminal libel statutes are constitutionally suspect today. Tollett v. United States, 485 F.2d 1087, 1094 (8th Cir. 1973) refers to "the ignominous history of the law surrounding criminal libel," and notes that since Garrison v. Louisiana, 379 U.S. 64 (1964) and Ashton v. Kentucky, 384 U.S. 195 (1966), "a strong argument may be made that there remains little constitutional vitality to criminal libel laws."

As the three dissenters (four counting District Judge Debevoise who sat on the original panel) in the Court of Appeals recognized, governmental power to investigate the truth of a book may be abused for the purpose of silencing or chilling viewpoints displeasing to the government or to individuals or interests influential with the government. The First Amendment was enacted precisely because history had demonstrated the dangers of any law granting the government the power to investigate, to judge, and ultimately to determine the truth, value or dissemination of speech. A grand jury's extensive powers would be particularly susceptible to abuse regarding investigations of books, since a grand jury can investigate even to assure itself that a crime has <u>not</u> been

committed.*

The Court of Appeals majority acknowledges that an investigation which is not viewpoint-neutral may be a violation of the First Amendment. It holds, erroneously we believe, "There is no support in the record for the contention of Gronowicz and amici that this investigation is not viewpoint-neutral, and is intended to harass Gronowicz for the beliefs he expressed. Such a situation would raise serious first amendment concerns that are not now

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*"A grand jury investigation `is not fully carried out until every available clue has been run down and all witnesses examined in every proper way to find if a crime has been committed.' United States v. Stone, 429 F2d 138, 140 (CA2 1970). Such an investigation may be triggered by tips, rumors, evidence proffered by the prosecutor, or the personal knowledge of the grand jurors. Costello v. United States, 350 US [359], at 362. It is only after the grand jury has examined the evidence that a determination of whether the proceeding will result in an indictment can be made..." Branzburg v. Hayes, 408 U.S. 665, 701-702 (1972).

before the Court" (n. 3 at A8, see also A27-28). The Circuit Court's suggestion that an author bears the burden of proving that an investigation is in bad faith and/or content-based fails to take into account that the information regarding the reasons for an investigation is largely and sometimes exclusively in the control of the prosecutor. One reason investigations into the truth of the contents of a book about important public affairs should be absolutely prohibited is the considerable danger that a prosecutor will not be candid about the genesis of an investigation, will have been misled himself by others into deploying governmental power for the investigation of a book, or may be acting from a subconscious bias. Effective legal and practical means were not available in the trial court for testing and probing a U.S. Attorney's

inevitable assertion that a grand jury inquiry is in good faith, content-neutral, and apolitical. Also an investigation which is facially content-neutral may be actuated and propelled by subtle political factors which eviscerate First Amendment protections. For example, the prestige or influence of the person or persons seeking inquiries into allegedly fraudulent speech would naturally affect the likelihood an investigation would be commenced. Yet the U.S. Attorney himself may not know or be able to ascertain the actual motives of those who have sought and obtained government investigation of allegedly fraudulent speech. A government investigation may all too easily be triggered by complainants seeking to further their own political, religious, or ideological objectives by discrediting through an investigation an author whose book has displeased them.

It is petitioner's view that the danger of such abuses is among the reasons that investigations of the truth of books about important public affairs are absolutely prohibited by the First Amendment. But if arguendo such an investigation may be conducted, at the very least the U.S. Attorney should bear the burden of demonstrating the good faith and content-neutrality of the investigation.*

The genesis of the investigation of Mr. Gronowicz' book has never been revealed. Why the government chose to investigate Mr. Gronowicz' book, or who, if anyone, complained about the book to

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*For an illustration of the complexities of the concept and application of viewpoint neutrality, see Cornelius v. N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense and Educational Fund, 53 U.S.L.W. 5516 (July 2, 1985)(remand required to determine whether facially neutral and valid justification advanced by the government was impermissibly motivated or otherwise a facade for viewpoint-based discrimination).

the U.S. Attorney, is not indicated in the record. The Government's second Schofield affidavit J.App. 59-65, by Postal Inspector Valent, indicates some preliminary findings of his investigation on behalf of the grand jury, but not the genesis of the decision to investigate.

Judge Becker in his concurrence in the Court of Appeals found it "discomfiting that this investigation proceeded on an anonymous tip" from a "representative of the Vatican" (A17), which was his understanding of the second Schofield affidavit prepared by Valent. Actually neither the first nor the second Schofield affidavit makes clear what or who triggered the investigation. Petitioner does not know whether the third Schofield affidavit -- which he has never seen because it was submitted ex parte -- clarifies the genesis of the

investigation, rather than merely presenting further information obtained during the investigation. (Judge Becker refers to the third Schofield affidavit, n. 1 at A17.) If indeed the Vatican requested the investigation, Mr. Gronowicz has never been so informed, nor has he been informed of the person or persons within the Vatican making the request.

The government's failure to be forthcoming in this case about the genesis of the investigation is just one example of the multiple hurdles faced by any citizen in bearing the burden of showing that an investigation into his speech is in bad faith or animated by content-related considerations. Only the prohibition of any governmental investigation of the truth of speech concerning public affairs can effectively protect First Amendment interests. This is particularly so because a claim or

suspicion of falsity can be readily engendered regarding any book about controversial public issues. An investigation could be conducted to determine whether the "facts" in a book were falsely presented, with the government claiming that the investigation could not be discontinued or the investigation prejudged until the investigation had sufficiently determined the "facts."

If a grand jury were permitted to force an author to produce his work product for minute examination as to fraudulent or reckless "error," the potential for abuse would be staggering. Grand juries could then investigate for alleged fraud authors who had offended the sensibilities of the powerful. As Judge Sloviter pointed out in her dissenting opinion (A40-41), the authors of books such as the following could then be readily exposed to the

hardships of grand jury inquiry with attendant damage to reputation: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring; Seymour Hersh's Kissinger; Ralph Nader's Unsafe at Any Speed; William Shawcross's Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and the Destruction of Cambodia; Walter and Miriam Schneirs' book on the Rosenberg case, Invitation to an Inquest; Woodward and Bernstein's All the President's Men; Darwin's Origin of the Species; and the works of Galileo. Each book made factual claims which were controversial. A grand jury proceeding is not a proper means for posing, exploring or resolving such factual controversies.*

Herbert v. Lando, 441 U.S. 153, 170 (1979), which permits wide discovery of a

*The risks posed to authors by the grand jury subpoenas issued to Antoni Gronowicz are confirmed by concerns expressed by the Authors League of America, Inc., which has filed herein an amici curiae petition in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Foundation.

reporter's work product and unpublished materials in a civil action for libel, is cited by the Court of Appeals as authority for requiring petitioner's compliance with the grand jury's subpoena (A6-7, 10). But the holding of Herbert v. Lando cannot be transposed to authorize a government criminal investigation of the truth of a book under the mail fraud statute. As Judge Hunter notes in his dissent, "Herbert was instituted by a private party...rather than by the government... No one can fail to discern the distinction. The First Amendment primarily protects citizens from government intrusion into their freedom of expression, and not against private efforts to gain vindication by civil actions." (A23, emphasis in original).

Although the government conclusorily asserts that the investigation in this case is content-neutral, apolitical, and

in good faith, there are a number of interested, powerful parties who may have influenced directly or indirectly, subtly or otherwise, the decision to investigate this book and subpoena this author.* The U.S. Attorney, not Mr. Gronowicz, has the means for ascertaining the role, if any, of these parties in actuating the investigation.

A set of hypotheteical situations will here be adduced (bearing semblance to

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*John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia initially publicly endorsed the book with glowing praise, "a masterpiece," but later retracted his endorsement. One or more anonymous persons in the Vatican have questioned in newspaper accounts whether Mr. Gronowicz had as much access to the Pope as reported in the book. Mr. Thomas Leonard, a prominent attorney in a well-connected Philadelphia law firm, contracted for the movie rights to the book, has not paid money due on the contract, and is involved as defendant and cross-claimant in a civil suit with Mr. Gronoewicz on the contract. The two partners, Messrs. Snyder and Richardson, who published the book and ultimately disagreed about its recall, are opposing parties in arbitration to settle their mutual business affairs and accounts.

the circumstances in this case) which indicate the substantial dangers of abuse if the government is permitted to investigate the truth of an author's book. Consider how the following hypothesized factual patterns would be constitutionally questionable or impermissible bases for a grand jury investigation testing the factual accuracy of a book:

(1) An author writes a book about a prominent religious leader, such as the Pope. A well-connected attorney signs a contract with the author to produce a movie based on the book. The attorney wishes to renege on the contract. The author brings a civil action against the attorney for breach of contract. The attorney files a counterclaim for fraud and misrepresentation. The attorney, with contacts in the U.S. Attorney's office, causes an investigation into the truth of

the book to be instituted, while the civil action is pending, to retaliate against the author for the civil suit, to gain possible procedural or discovery advantages in that suit, and to apply pressure for the withdrawal of the suit or a favorable settlement.

(2) A Catholic Cardinal glowingly endorses an author's book about the Pope, "the best, etc." The Cardinal subsequently attacks the book. His chagrin is increased because of his initial support for the book. Out of deference to the Cardinal's prestige in the community, the U.S. Attorney, through the grand jury, commences an investigation into the truth of the book.

(3) A Catholic Cardinal gives an invocation at the Republican National Convention. Later he returns to his metropolitan area with the Republican presidential candidate and appears to be supporting that candidate.

Meanwhile, a book regarding the Pope is published. The Pope and Cardinal are displeased with some statements in the book. In the election season, the U.S. Attorney of the Cardinal's metropolitan area institutes an investigation into the truthfulness of the contents of the book.

(4) An author publishes a book about the Pope. The book includes observations and conclusions about an assassination attempt against the Pope. The book attributes to the Pope the opinion that American intelligence could have prevented the assassination attempt. The author purports to be knowledgeable of church affairs, the views of the Pope, and the geopolitical role of the Vatican in European politics. The author's version of the persons and governments involved in the assassination plot are at variance with the propagated views of

American intelligence regarding the principals (Bulgaria and the Soviet Union) involved in the assassination. The author contemplates another book dealing exclusively with the assassination. The intelligence community is concerned that if the author comes to be perceived through his first book on the Pope as an especially knowledgeable, informed and independent analyst of geopolitics relating to the Vatican, then governmental views on these topics and the assassination attempt may subsequently be undermined by the author's contemplated book on the assassination attempt. To undermine the author's reputation, the foreign policy branch of government encourages the U.S. Attorney to institute an investigation into the "truth" of the author's published book on the Pope. The U.S. Attorney complies.

(5) A small publishing house, consisting of two partners who make all major decisions, publishes a book about the Pope. The two partners subsequently have a general falling out which leads to the dissolution of the firm. Meanwhile, the book becomes controversial because some charges are made that the book contains inaccuracies. In press accounts of the controversy, one of the partners of the publishing firm continues to support the essential validity of the book and acknowledges that he, not the author, was the source of an exaggerated statement appearing on the jacket of the book that the author had spent 200 hours interviewing the Pope. The other partner, however, withdraws his support of the book. The partners' disagreements result in litigation over financial matters. Whether the book is essentially factual or not may be important in how

their financial disputes are resolved. Meanwhile a U.S. Attorney begins an investigation into the truth of the book, although neither partner had brought a civil action against the author, and no libel action had been brought against the author or publisher, and one partner wants to republish the book. There is a substantial chance that the U.S. Attorney's investigation will influence the course of the litigation between the two partners.

The foregoing hypotheses indicate the substantial danger that governmental investigations into the truth of books may be triggered by persons or institutions with self-interested or political objectives for suppressing opposing viewpoints. Such investigations should be held to be absolutely prohibited by the First Amendment.

The Fifth Amendment is no protection

of the First Amendment interests infringed by the government's conduct. The First Amendment guarantees the freedom to speak without the fear, chill, or encumbrance of possibly being required subsequently to justify that speech to the government or to defend the accuracy of that speech in a governmental investigation. First Amendment guarantees would be directly undermined if the government could, through inquiry into a citizen's speech, pressure the citizen into invoking the Fifth Amendment, since such invocation would implicitly impugn the very speech under investigation. If the author believes his speech true, the Fifth Amendment could not even be honestly invoked. If the citizen were not constitutionally entitled under such circumstances to rely on the First rather than the Fifth Amendment, governmental inquiry into

speech would be dangerously encouraged because government power to discredit protected expression would be substantially increased. Without a First Amendment privilege the author would be forced either to succumb to the harassments, intimidations, and risks of permitting the government to delve into the predicates of his free expression (with the consequent inhibitory impact on others), or to forfeit First Amendment protections under governmental pressure by relying on his Fifth Amendment privilege, thereby permitting the government to succeed indirectly in its endeavor to discredit the speech under investigation.

2. The Government has Failed to Demonstrate a Compelling Public Interest to Justify its Encroachment on Fundamental First Amendment Rights.

Even assuming, what petitioner does not concede, that the government

under some circumstances may constitutionally investigate the truth of Mr. Gronowicz' book, any such encroachment on First Amendments interest must be justified by the showing of a compelling governmental necessity.*

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* As Judge Hunter pointed out in his dissent (A21-22), "the Supreme Court has consistently held that official action with adverse impact on first amendment rights must be justified by a governmental interest that is 'compelling,''overriding,' or 'paramount.' N.A.A.C.P. v. Button, 371 U.S. 415, 438 (1963) ('only a compelling state interest...can justify limiting First Amendment freedoms.'); Gibson v. Florida Legislative Investigating Committee, 372 U.S. 539, 546 (1963) ('[I]t is an essential prerequisite to the validity of an investigation which intrudes into the area of constitutionally protected rights of speech, press, association and petition that the state convincingly show a substantial relation between the information sought and a subject of overriding and compelling state interest.'); Bates v. Little Rock, 361 U.S. 516 (1960) ('Where there is a significant encroachment upon personal liberty, the State may prevail only upon showing a subordinating interest which is compelling."); Thomas v. Collins, 323 U.S. 516, 530 (1945); ('Only the gravest abuses, endangering paramount interests, give occasion for permissible limitation.')."

The government claims that the investigation is justified by the need to enforce a criminal statute -- this is the "compelling" governmental interest. But a constitutionally valid criminal statute, such as the mail fraud statute, may on occasion be applied in an unconstitutional fashion against constitutionally protected subject matter, which is what has occurred here. The governmental interest in enforcing the criminal laws is not automatically compelling, overriding, or paramount when core First Amendment protections are infringed. The law requires that a compelling governmental interest must be shown when First Amendment interests are encroached, not that the enforcement of any criminal statute is by its nature paramount to the First Amendment. If invoking the enforcement of the mail fraud statute were enough, then any book

could be investigated as to its truth regardless of the public injury which might result from the failure to prosecute or the degree of incursion on free expression. The public injury risked if there is no prosecution must be measured to determine whether there is a paramount public interest which overrides the First Amendment interest. The degree of incursion must be evaluated, with incidental or peripheral burdens on speech obviously being given less weight than incursions into the core of First Amendment protections.

The government seeks to compare its subpoenas on Mr. Gronowicz to the subpoenas on newsmen involved in Branzburg v. Hayes, 408 U.S. 665 (1972), where no investigation into the truth of the contents of the newsmen's writings was involved and no newsman was threatened with prosecution for what he

wrote. This Court found the concerns of newsmen in Branzburg with maintaining good relationships with their news sources to involve relatively peripheral First Amendment interests when weighed against the need to investigate on-going, potentially violent criminal activity. "[T]he First Amendment does not invalidate every incidental burdening of the press that may result from the enforcement of civil or criminal statutes of general applicability." Branzburg, at 682. In contrast, the burden imposed on the First Amendment by the investigation into the truth of Mr. Gronowicz' book is not peripheral or "incidental," nor is there a need for such an investigation to curtail on-going, potentially violent criminal behavior.

The investigation of the content of Mr. Gronowicz' published material implicates the core of the First

Amendment, while the controversy in Branzburg involved considerably less central concerns. This Court's plurality decision in Branzburg emphasized that the issues in that case did not involve fundamental First Amendment interests, and provided a number of examples (at 681) of what the case did not involve, e.g., "no penality, civil or criminal, related to the content of published material is at issue here." Branzburg cannot be invoked by the government as authority either for investigating the truth of the contents of a book or for subpoenaing the author of the book pursuant to such an investigation.

This case, involving such wholesale intrusion upon central First Amendment protections, requires the utmost caution in evaluating any claims that purportedly "compelling" governmental interests necessitate abrogation of the

First Amendment. The government should not be permitted the power at its option to investigate the truth of a book merely by asserting that alleged criminal conduct is also the subject matter of the investigation. Branzburg did not purport to grant the government such power to undermine First Amendment protections, although Justice Douglas in his dissent, at 720, warned that the "compelling interest test" as applied in Branzburg might eventually be "twisted and relaxed so as to provide virtually no protection at all."

The government, of course, may investigate fraudulent conduct, including alleged fraudulent conduct involving representations to publishers or others. But investigations of alleged criminal conduct by the author of a book may not constitutionally be an inquiry into the

truth of the book itself.*

3. The Grand Jury's Subpoena is Unenforceable Against Petitioner in the Absence of a Showing that the Evidence is not Available from Other Sources.

Even assuming, what petitioner does not concede, that a grand jury may investigate the truth of his book and subpoena his work product and other materials pursuant to that investigation where necessary, the subpoena issued to petitioner is unconstitutionally directed to him under the circumstances. Since the investigation and subpoena encroach upon the First Amendment, the

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* Mr. Gronowicz' book on religious affairs is pure speech, not subject to the limited forms of regulation permitted for some forms of "commercial speech." Bates v. State Bar of Arizona, 433 U.S. 350 (1977); Virginia Pharmacy Board v. Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, 425 U.S. 748 (1976). Books are fully protected by the First Amendment even though sold for profit. Smith v. California, 361 U.S. 147, 150 (1959). Mr. Gronowicz' book is noncommercial speech because only his expression was sold rather than his expression being used to sell something else.

government must pursue its objectives by the narrowest means sufficient to achieve the ends sought, including the diligent pursuit of all alternative means which are less threatening to free speech.*

* "An order issued in the area of First Amendment rights must be couched in the narrowest terms that will accomplish the pin-pointed objective permitted by constitutional mandate and the essential needs of the public order. In this sensitive field, the State may not employ 'means that broadly stifle fundamental personal liberties when the end can be more narrowly achieved,' Shelton v. Tucker, 364 U.S. 479 (1960). In other words, the order must be tailored as precisely as possible to the exact needs of the case." Carroll v. President & Com'rs of Princess Anne, 392 U.S. 175, 183-184 (1968). Also see N.A.A.C.P. v. Alabama, 377 U.S. 288, 307-308 (1964) and the cases cited therein. The Third Circuit has sought to implement these constitutional requirements, when a newsman is subpoenaed to produce unpublished information, by recognizing a qualified evidentiary privilege for journalists. Riley v. City of Chester, 612 F. 2d 708 (3rd Cir. 1979); United States v. Cuthbertson, 630 F. 2d 139 (3rd Cir. 1980) cert. denied, 449 U.S. 1126 (1981); United States v. Criden, 633 F.2d 346 (3rd Cir. 1980), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 1113 (1981). Judge Higginbotham's dissenting opinion summarizes the Third Cirrcuit's rule (A35), and finds the government's subpoena unconstitutionally broad (A36-37).

Judge Higginbotham's dissenting opinion points out that the subpoena "must encompass nearly every piece of paper appellant accumulated in preparing God's Broker" (A36), and that "the government has utterly failed to contend or to show that it cannot develop the information it seeks through other sources, without having to explore the author's notes and records." (A 37; emphasis in original).

The government has not demonstrated or even attempted to demonstrate that it could not obtain the information sought through alternative means having a narrower, less dangerously chilling impact on free expression. Absent such a showing, the subpoena is an unconstitutional onslaught on the First Amendment.

CONCLUSION

The petition for a writ of certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 23, 1985

APPENDIX

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

NO. 84-1721

IN RE
GRAND JURY MATTER

Antoni Gronowicz, Appellant

ON APPEAL FROM
THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Before: HUNTER and HIGGINBOTHAM, *Circuit Judges*, and DEBEVOISE, *District Judge**
Argued January 14, 1985

ARGUED IN BANC MAY 6, 1985

BEFORE: ALDISERT, *Chief Judge*, SEITZ, ADAMS, GIBBONS, HUNTER, WEIS, GARTH, HIGGINBOTHAM, SLOVITER, BECKER and MANSMANN, *Circuit Judges*

(Opinion Filed June 24, 1985)

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*Hon. Dickinson R. Debevoise, United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, sitting by designation.

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OPINION OF THE COURT

GIBBONS, *Circuit Judge:*

Antoni Gronowicz, the author of a book called *God's Broker*, appeals from an order of the district court holding him in civil contempt for refusing to comply with an order enforcing a grand jury subpoena *duces tecum*. The district court denied Gronowicz's motion to quash the subpoena insofar as he sought relief with respect to the production of documents, and Gronowicz was ordered to produce the subpoenaed documents within two weeks. Thereafter the order was modified to identify the documents more specifically. Gronowicz refused to obey the modified order, and was directed to show cause why he should not be held in civil contempt. In response Gronowicz asserted essentially the same objections to the subpoena as had been considered and rejected when the court denied the motion to quash. The district court held that Gronowicz was in civil contempt and ordered that he pay a five hundred dollar per day coercive civil fine for each day of further non-compliance. This appeal followed. Payment of the coercive fine was stayed pending appeal. We now affirm.

I.

Gronowicz's motion, filed pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 17(c), made four objections to enforcement of the subpoena: (1) that it sought information that was within the protection of the Pennsylvania Shield Law, 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 5942 (Purdon 1982); (2) that it was burdensome, oppressive and unreasonable; (3) that the information was sought for an improper purpose because the grand jury's investigation was prohibited by the first amendment; and (4) that the state of Gronowicz's health precluded his personal

appearance.[1] The district court ruled that Gronowicz did not have to appear at that time. Thus only the production of documents is in issue. The court ruled, further, that the Pennsylvania Shield Law did not provide a basis for withholding the documents, and that in light of the scope of the grand jury investigation the subpoena *duces tecum* was not unduly burdensome or oppressive. On appeal Gronowicz does not challenge these rulings. The district court also ruled, however, that the subpoena was for a proper purpose in that it sought information relevant to an investigation into possible violations of the mail and wire fraud statutes. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 1343 (1982). Gronowicz challenges that ruling. He contends that this mail fraud investigation of him is outside the authority of the grand jury because it must of necessity inquire into the truth of assertions made by him in *God's Broker*. Such an inquiry, he contends, may not be made by a grand jury, because it would violate the press and religion clauses of the first amendment. Gronowicz also contends that, as the author of a book, he is protected by a federal common law privilege from grand jury subpoena of materials relating to the writing of a book.

God's Broker was published in New York by Richardson & Snyder. That firm has since withdrawn the book from the market for reasons which will appear hereafter. The dust jacket states that the book portrays "[t]he life of Pope John Paul II as told in his own words and in the reminiscences of cardinals, bishops, and friends." Much of the text purports to be direct quotations from the Pope and other Vatican officials. Gronowicz writes in the prologue that the text is derived "from private conversations in Europe and

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1. No fifth amendment contention has been made by Gronowicz at any stage of these proceedings.

America with Pope John Paul II, Cardinals and other high officials of the Roman Catholic Church, as well as with the cultural and political personages of Poland." Gronowicz further asserts that Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, "introduced me to the Pope, acquainted me with Vatican circles, and convinced the Holy Father that he should bypass the Vatican Department of State and grant the private interviews."

Before Richardson & Snyder decided to publish *God's Broker*, Gronowicz obtained a note to the publisher from John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia commenting favorably on the manuscript. After the book was published and distributed, however, Cardinal Krol withdrew his endorsement, and information came to the publisher suggesting that Gronowicz never interviewed the Pope, and had met him only once or twice as a member of a eneral audience. Julian Snyder, a partner of Richardson & Snyder, concluded that the book is a fraud insofar as it purports to recount interviews which never took place, and has brought a civil fraud suit against Gronowicz. The publisher has withdrawn the book from distribution. Gronowicz also contracted with Thomas Leonard of Philadelphia for the motion picture rights to the book. The government asserted in its opposition to the motion to quash, and continues to assert on appeal, that the grand jury is investigating whether Richardson & Snyder or Leonard was defrauded by Gronowicz in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343.

II.

If, as Gronowicz contends, there is a federal common law privilege analogous to the journalists' privilege, that protects an author from compelled disclosure to a grand jury of information concerning the truth of representations of fact made about the contents of a book, that privilege would afford a basis

for reversing the contempt order without addressing his first amendment claims. Gronowicz would not be protected by a privilege, such as is afforded by typical press shield laws, merely to conceal the confidential sources of published information when called to testify in proceedings directed against third parties. *Compare Riley v. City of Chester*, 612 F.2d 708 (3d Cir. 1979); *United States v. Cuthbertson (Cuthbertson I)*, 630 F.2d 139 (3d Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 449 U.S. 1126 (1981); *United States v. Criden*, 633 F.2d 346, 358-59 (3d Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 449 U.S. 1113 (1981); *United States v. Cuthbertson (Cuthbertson II)*, 651 F.2d 189, 195-96 (3d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 1056 (1981). Moreover even in investigations into third party conduct, the press privilege recognized in the cited cases is a qualified one, which yields, if the circumstances so require, to the compelling governmental interest in investigation of crime.

No case has been called to our attention in which this court or the Supreme Court has recognized a press privilege to be absolutely free from inquiry into the legality of the reporter's own activities, even those reflected in a publication. Indeed the Supreme Court has expressly rejected that position. It has held that authors may be held accountable for culpable falsehoods, both criminally, *Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. 64, 75 (1964); *Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire*, 315 U.S. 568 (1942), and civilly, *Time, Inc. v. Firestone*, 424 U.S. 448 (1976); *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.*, 418 U.S. 323 (1974); *Curtis Publishing Co. v. Butts*, 388 U.S. 130 (1967); *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964). If the author of a culpable falsehood had a common law privilege such as Gronowicz contends for, simply because the alleged falsehood had been published, it would be extremely difficult to hold that author accountable. The Supreme Court has recognized as much, holding in *Herbert v.*

Lando, 441 U.S. 153, 170 (1979), that a reporter's thoughts, opinions, and conclusions with respect to materials gathered by him were discoverable in a civil action for libel. The limits on civil discovery, according to the court, are to be found in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1), not in any doctrine of absolute privilege. *Id.* at 177.

When a grand jury conducts an investigation into culpable falsehood, or any other subject, the limits of its inquiry in this Circuit are established by the *Schofield* rule. *In re Grand Jury Proceedings (Schofield I)*, 486 F.2d 85, 93 (3d Cir. 1973); *In re Grand Jury Proceedings (Schofield II)*, 507 F.2d 963, 966 (3d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 421 U.S. 1015 (1975). The *Schofield* rule requires the government to make a showing by affidavit that the subpoenaed items are: "(1) relevant to an investigation, (2) properly within the grand jury's jurisdiction, and (3) not sought primarily for another purpose." *Schofield II*, 507 F.2d at 966. Gronowicz does not challenge the grand jury's jurisdiction or the relevance of the subpoenaed items to the investigation. Gronowicz may prevail under the third prong of the *Schofield* test only if the subpoenaed items are not sought to further a proper grand jury investigation. In light of *Herbert v. Lando*, no reason occurs to us for establishing a privilege in the grand jury context for authors which is broader than the *Schofield* rule. If the grand jury can constitutionally inquire into culpable falsehood by an author, the *Schofield* requirements are met, and no federal common law privilege permits the author to withhold information.

III

We turn, therefore, to the contention on which Gronowicz places his principal reliance: that the first amendment prohibits a prosecution for fraud whenever the prosecutor must inquire into the truth or

falsity of the contents of a book.[2] If Gronowicz's interpretation of the first amendment were correct, the subpoena would not be enforced because the information sought would not be relevant to a proper grand jury investigation. The grand jury's investigation appears, so far as the record discloses, to be focused upon the truth or falsity of representations made by Gronowicz to Richardson & Snyder, the publisher, and Leonard, the motion picture producer. Since, however, those representations, particularly about the extent of Gronowicz's personal contact with Pope John Paul II, are repeated in the book, the inquiry will of necessity examine the accuracy of its contents.[3]

Conceding that no reported case stands for the proposition that an author may not be prosecuted for misrepresenting the contents of a book, Gronowicz relies on repeated statements by the Supreme Court in other contexts extolling the social utility of free expression. He argues that because free expression holds such an honored place in our pantheon of values, only a compelling governmental interest can justify any limitation on such expression, and the means chosen for protection of that interest may be no more intrusive than is necessary.

That salutary rule is well established as the test for measuring governmental activities having the effect of imposing prior restraints upon the dissemination of truthful information. *E.g., Linmark Associates, Inc. v.*

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2. This case does not require us to consider whether there might be other bases for first amendment claims cognizable at the grand jury stage. *E.g., United States v. Dionisio*, 410 U.S. 1, 12 (1973).

3. There is no support in the record for the contention of Gronowicz and amici that this investigation is not viewpoint-neutral, and is intended to harass Gronowicz for the beliefs he expressed. Such a situation would raise serious first amendment concerns that are not now before the court.

Township of Willingboro, 431 U.S. 85 (1977); *Beneficial Corp. v. F.T.C.*, 542 F.2d 611 (3d Cir. 1976), *cert. denied*, 430 U.S. 983 (1977); *New Jersey State Lottery Commission v. United States*, 491 F.2d 219 (3d Cir. 1974)(*in banc*), *vacated and remanded for determination of mootness*, 420 U.S. 371 (1975); *Veterans & Reservists for Peace in Vietnam v. Regional Commissioner of Customs*, 459 F.2d 676 (3d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 933 (1972). But for commercial speech, at least, an ordinance that serves a valid purpose, but also works a prior restraint upon speech, has been upheld. *Pittsburgh Press v. Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations*, 413 U.S. 376 (1973). This case does not involve a classic prior restraint, imposed before dissemination, such as the injunctions against publication considered by the Court in *Near v. Minnesota*, 283 U.S. 697 (1931), and *New York Times v. United States*, 403 U.S. 713 (1971). Rather, we are dealing with the supposed chilling effect that the mail fraud statute would have upon authors if, after publication, they could be called to account for a conscious falsehood about the contents of a book. Thus the body of case law establishing that prior restraints on expression must be justified by a compelling state interest, and that the restraint can go no further than necessary for protection of that interest, provides at best limited enlightenment for present purposes.

There can be no doubt that post-publication punishment of the dissemination of conscious falsehood is intended to have and does have an inhibiting effect upon speech. The law of civil and criminal libel is intended to have just this effect. But while it is unlikely that the Supreme Court would uphold an injunction against publication of an allegedly libelous book, it has consistently refused to strike down libel laws imposing post-publication

sanctions. *E.g., Herbert v. Lando*, 441 U.S. 153 (1979); *Time, Inc. v. Firestone*, 424 U.S. 448 (1976); *Curtis Publishing Co. v. Butts*, 388 U.S. 130 (1967); *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964). These decisions demonstrate that serious first amendment interests are implicated in the post-publication context, but also recognize that those interests must be balanced against the societal interest in protecting others from the harm of defamation. In the post-publication setting, the accommodation to the first amendment protection of free expression is made by scienter requirements, which in libel cases vary depending on whether the victim is a public figure or the writing concerns issues of public importance. The scienter requirements forbid the enforcement of overbroad statutes that subject an author to sanctions arising from innocent errors of fact, because such sanctions may have a chilling effect on protected speech. But false statements made intentionally receive no first amendment protection in the post-publication sanctioning context.[4]

No distinction having any first amendment significance can be made between libel, civil or criminal, and fraud, civil or criminal. In both libel and fraud, post-publication sanctioning occurs because of a falsehood made with the requisite state of mind. Judge Hunter's distinction, in this respect, between defamation and fraud is simply untenable. Fraud is

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4. Judge Sloviter's dissent, relying principally on Garrison v. Louisiana, 379 U.S. 64 (1964), suggests that there should be a first amendment distinction between criminal fraud and libel prosecutions on the one hand and civil fraud and libel actions on the other. *Garrison* itself rejects this suggestion. In that case, the standard for civil libel actions articulated in New York Times v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. 254 (1964), was applied in straightforward fashion to a criminal libel case. The analysis and result in *Garrison* cannot be squared with the distinction Judge Sloviter apparently finds in its dicta.

false speech in the purest sense, an intentional lie made to induce reliance. The scienter requirement under the mail fraud and wire fraud statutes is at least as strict as that held to be the constitutional minimum for libel. *See United States v. Boyer*, 694 F.2d 58 (3d Cir. 1982) (specific intent to deceive requirement of 18 U.S.C. § 1341 may be inferred from reckless misstatement); *United States v. Pearlstein*, 576 F.2d 531, 537 (3d Cir. 1978) (in prosecution for mail fraud government must prove willful participation in fraudulent scheme with knowledge of its falsity); *United States v. Klein*, 515 F.2d 751, 754 (3d Cir. 1975) (mail fraud statute requires proof of specific intent to defraud). Since the quantum of proof for convicting Gronowicz of mail fraud is no less than that which would permit post-publication liability for criminal or civil libel, his contention that the first amendment forbids application of the mail fraud statute to an author must be rejected.

Our rejection of Gronowicz's contention that the grand jury investigation is barred by the first amendment is consistent with the case law upholding mail fraud prosecutions against challenges grounded in the religion clauses of the first amendment. In *United States v. Ballard*, 322 U.S. 78 (1944) the Court considered a challenge to a conviction of defendants for soliciting funds by mail for a religious organization by misrepresenting defendants' belief that some of them could cure persons with incurable diseases. The Court upheld an instruction that the jury could convict if it found that the defendants did not believe the representations about spiritual healing, but made them for the purpose of obtaining money. *Id.* at 84. In *United States v. Rasheed*, 663 F.2d 843 (9th Cir. 1981), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 1157 (1982), the court applied the teaching of *Ballard* in upholding the mail fraud conviction of defendants who operated a Ponzi

scheme in the guise of a church, knowing that their actions were deceitful. *Id.* at 847-48. The purpose of the grand jury's investigation in this case is to determine whether Gronowicz knowingly misstated the contents of his manuscript. If, as *United States v. Ballard* holds, one can be convicted of mail fraud for knowingly misstating a belief in spiritual healing, and as *United States v. Rasheed* holds, one can be convicted for knowingly misstating a belief in the spiritual multiplication of money, a knowing misstatement as to interviews with Pope John Paul II and other members of the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church must also be actionable. *See also United States v. Margiotta*, 688 F.2d 108 (2d Cir. 1982), *cert. denied*, 461 U.S. 913 (1983) (mail fraud indictment for political corruption will not chill legitimate political associational activites protected by first amendment).

IV.

Because Gronowicz could constitutionally be prosecuted for misrepresentations about the contents of *God's Broker*, the subpoena *duces tecum* was issued pursuant to a proper grand jury investigation, the order directing him to comply was valid, and the order finding him in civil contempt for disobeying that order will be affirmed.

GARTH, *Circuit Judge*, concurring:

The majority opinion concludes that neither a common law nor a first amendment privilege protects Antoni Gronowicz, the target of a grand jury investigation from complying with a valid *subpoena duces tecum*. I concur, especially because my understanding of the majority opinion is that its

constitutional holding is limited to answering the precise question: does any first amendment privilege protect the target (Gronowicz) of a grand jury investigation from producing documents sought by a *subpoena duces tecum*?

I write separately to emphasize the precise constitutional holding of the majority opinion because the arguments surrounding Gronowicz's claimed first amendment privilege do not distinguish, as I believe they should have, between the various stages of a potential criminal proceeding, from grand jury investigation to indictment and through prosecution. I have found no authority or reason which would permit, let alone require, granting a first amendment evidentiary privilege to a grand jury target. I would therefore restrict any grand jury privilege which Gronowicz might assert to that provided by the fifth amendment.

Stated simply, my position is that no first amendment privilege may be claimed by a target of the grand jury even when that target is the author of a writing or a book. On the other hand, once an indictment is returned as a result of a grand jury investigation (if one ever is) and once a prosecution is mounted based on such an indictment, then I am persuaded that a first amendment challenge may be asserted to the indictment, the statute on which it is based, and perhaps even to the prosecution of that indictment itself. I do not regard this as a rule of exhaustion, but rather as one of unavailability, since in the context of a grand jury investigation, satisfaction of the *Schofield* requirements ensures that a subpoena does not issue in bad faith. The *Schofield* rule, when met, thus supplies all the initial first amendment protections needed before a grand jury.

Here, of course, I emphasize that we are not called upon to address or consider the merits of a first amendment challenge attacking the validity of an as yet hypothetical indictment, or the statute on which it may be predicated. Nor in this case are we asked to consider the constitutional propriety of an equally hypothetical prosecution. We are merely asked to decide whether a privilege grounded in the first amendment must be honored in the context of a grand jury investigation. The majority opinion cogently explains why no claimed privilege applies in the present case, where the subpoena itself comports with the *Schofield* rule. I need not repeat the majority's analysis. I would only add that when it is remembered that our decision affects the range of evidentiary privileges available to the *target* of a grand jury investigation, the soundness of the majority's holding becomes apparent.

Gronowicz, as the target of a grand jury investigation, has always possessed a personal fifth amendment privilege to refuse compliance with the instant subpoena.[1] The assertion of a first amendment evidentiary privilege is thus not only unnecessary for someone in Gronowicz's position, but, I believe, it is wholly unavailable before a grand jury .[2]

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1. As the majority has noted, Gronowicz has not to this date pleaded a fifth amendment privilege. *See* maj. op., typescript at 4, n.1.

2. Gronowicz's status, as the target of the investigation, distinguishes this case from other cases in which a qualified common-law privilege was accorded third-party witnesses asked to reveal confidential sources. *See* United States v. Cuthbertson, 651 F.2d 189 (3d Cir.) (Cuthbertson II), *cert. denied sub. nom.* Cuthbertson v. CBS, 454 U.S. 1056 (1981); United States v. Criden, 633 F.2d 346 (3d Cir. 1980), *cert. denied sub. nom.*: Schaffer v. United States, 449 U.S. 1113 (1981); United States v. Cuthbertson, 630 F.2d 139 (3d Cir. 1980) (Cuthbertson I), *cert.*

Had this court been asked to decide the availability of some other constitutionally based evidentiary privilege claimed by the target of a grand jury investigation, I have little doubt that it would have concluded that the fifth amendment privilege made assertion of another constitutional privilege redundant. That Gronowicz claims a privilege founded on the first amendment should not change this result.

In light of the Supreme Court's pronounced reluctance to create new evidentiary privileges, *see Branzburg v. Hayes*, 408 U.S. 665 (1972), and the broad sweep of legitimate grand jury inquiries, *see United States v. Calandra*, 414 U.S. 338, 343 (1974), Gronowicz, in my opinion, must be remitted to his already extant privilege under the fifth amendment. In the present context of a grand jury investigation seeking document disclosure, any assertion of his first amendment claims is premature.

I deliberately express no opinion as to the constitutional propriety of any indictment that might ultimately issue from the grand jury because, as I have earlier noted, that issue is not before us. I observe, however, that should an indictment issue, the first

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denied sub. nom. Cuthbertson v. CBS, 449 U.S. 1126 (1981); Riley v. City of Chester, 612 F.2d 708 (3d Cir. 1979)

To the extent that Justice Powell's concurring opinion in the Supreme Court's plurality decision in Branzburg v. Hayes, 408 U.S. 665 (1972) leaves open the possibility that a first amendment privilege might protect a newsman called to testify before a grand jury whose investigation was not undertaken in good faith, *Branzburg* is also inapposite. Here satisfaction of the *Schofield* rule precludes assertion that the investigation is pursued in bad faith. *Branzburg*, it must be pointed out, did not hold that a first amendment privilege was available in a grand jury context even where the party subpoenaed was not the target of the investigation. *A fortiori*, *Branzburg* did not hold that a first amendment privilege was available to a grand jury target, who undeniably retains a fifth amendment privilege.

amendment challenge that Gronowicz has made here, and the arguments supporting that challenge, may more appropriately be raised by him as a direct attack on the constitutionality of the mail fraud statute as applied. Nothing which we have said, either in the majority opinion or in this separate opinion, restricts Gronowicz's first amendment protections in the latter stages of a criminal proceeding. However, no first amendment privilege, nor indeed any privilege other than a fifth amendment privilege, can currently protect Gronowicz from complying with the grand jury's *subpoena duces tecum*.

BECKER, *Circuit Judge*, concurring:

While I join in Judge Gibbons' opinion, I write separately because I think it important to explain why, when a grand jury investigation focuses on the truth of a book, the government should be held to a stronger showing than the "scant" requirement of *Schofield II*, 507 F.2d 963, 967 (3d Cir. 1975). This position is not inconsistent with the views of the majority; nor is it at odds with the holding in this case, for although in my view the government made an inadequate showing in the *Schofield* affidavits relied upon by the district court, Gronowicz has not challenged their sufficiency. Indeed, he has abjured any *Schofield* claim, choosing to rely solely on the argument that the first amendment absolutely precludes a grand jury inquiry.

Schofield I and *II* set out the minimum requirements that the government must meet to survive a challenge to a grand jury subpoena. These cases also make clear that in certain circumstances a court in its discretion may require additional justification for a subpoena. *Schofield II*, 507 F.2d at 965. The source of the district court's discretion in this regard is its supervisory power over grand jury

proceedings, which in turn stems from the grand jury's status as an arm of the court, *see Robert Hawthorne, Inc. v. Director of Internal Revenue*, 406 F. Supp. 1098, 1103 n.4 (E.D. Pa. 1976) (Becker, J.). It is the responsibility of the court to preserve the grand jury's historic role as a bulwark between the individual and the state. Hence, the federal courts have broad supervisory power to prevent grand jury abuse, including the granting of relief from unreasonable and oppressive grand jury process. *Id.*, at 1115.

The government's *Schofield* affidavit avers that a "representative of the Vatican" stated that Gronowicz had not had two hundred hours of conversation with the Pope, that he had asked for but had been denied a private audience with the Pope, and that he had been admitted one or two times in a group or general audience. This affidavit might satisfy the *Schofield* requirements in an ordinary case. However, in cases which implicate the values so eloquently described in the three dissenting opinions, I doubt that this averment justifies the enforcement of a subpoena *duces tecum*. More precisely, I find it discomfiting that this investigation proceeded on an anonymous tip, notwithstanding its incorporation in a sworn affidavit.[1]

It is difficult, of course, to describe with precision the heightened *Schofield* showing that I would require where core First Amendment interests are implicated by a grand jury subpoena. Obviously any such jurisprudence would have to develop on a case-by-case

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1. The government submitted a third *Schofield* affidavit which the district court accepted for filing but neither read nor relied upon in ruling on the motion to quash the subpoena. This third affidavit contains more detailed information than the earlier ones. In particular, it contains an affidavit from Wladyslaw Cardinal Rubin, of the Vatican Secretariat, confirming the substance of the second *Schofield* affidavit.

basis. I simply wish to note here that when federal district judges are confronted with appropriate motions to quash, limit or enforce grand jury subpoenas, they can, and indeed should, exercise their responsibility to prevent grand jury abuse by insisting that the government invoke the subpoena power only when there is solid foundation for doing so.

The discriminating exercise of supervisory power that I advocate is not tantamount to a First Amendment *privilege* for targets or subjects of grand jury investigations. In this respect, I agree with Judges Gibbons and Garth. I take issue, however, with Judge Garth's statment that "[t]he *Schofield* rule, when met . . . supplies all the initial first amendment protections needed before a grand jury," if by this statement Judge Garth means to suggest that First Amendment concerns cannot support a more stringent *Schofield* requirement in particular cases. Indeed, I believe that any such notion is in tension with *Schofield I* and *II*, and with *Branzburg v. Hayes*, 408 U.S. 665, 708, where the Supreme Court noted "we do not expect that courts will forget that grand juries must operate within the limits of the First Amendment as well as the Fifth." Although the investigative powers of a grand jury are very broad, *United States v. Calandra*, 414 U.S. 338, 343 (1972), I believe it is clear under current law that federal district judges exercising their supervisory power to prevent grand jury abuse can require the government to provide a strong justification for an inquiry before the court unleashes the power of the grand jury in a context where it might chill the exercise of First Amendment rights. In my view, this was an appropriate case for a heightened *Schofield* showing. *Cf. In re San Juan Star Co.*, 662 F.2d 108, 116 (1st Cir. 1981) ("'heightened sensitivity'" for first amendment concerns appropriate in consideration of order prohibiting dissemination to press of

communications produced during discovery) (quoting *Bruno & Stillman, Inc. v. Globe Newspaper Co.*, 633 F.2d 583, 596 (1st Cir. 1980)).

Judge Sloviter has posed some provocative hypothetical situations in which the majority's holding might be thought to undermine important first amendment values. *See* typescript at 4. I would be concerned about these and other "worst case" scenarios but for my belief that such efforts to suppress the contents of books for improper reasons would constitute grand jury abuse which could be reined by the exercise of the supervisory power I have described. Proper exercise of that power, in my view, requires more than the perfunctory examination of affidavits, and may be exercised in the context of a formal hearing convened to determine whether the prosecutor is acting in bad faith.

HUNTER, *Circuit Judge*, dissenting:

1. The majority opinion rests on the unsupported assumption that the "grand jury's investigation appears, so far as the record discloses, to be focused upon the truth or falsity of the representations made by Gronowicz to Richardson & Snyder, the publisher, and Leonard, the motion picture producer." It further characterizes the investigation as one in which Gronowicz would be "called to account for a conscious falsehood about the contents of a book." But the majority deletes from its recitation of the case the Government's own concessions that the focus of the grand jury investigation was on the truth or falsity of the book itself.

2. Before the district court, the Assistant U.S. Attorney stated that "Mr. Gronowicz is right that the grand jury is investigating the truth or falsity of the book in the sense that the book purports to represent

that he had exclusive access for two hundred hours to Pope John Paul II." App. at 206. In its modified affidavit, submitted pursuant to the procedures outlined in *In re Grand Jury Proceedings (Schofield II)*, 507 F.2d 963, 966 (3d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 421 U.S. 1015 (1975), the Government again admits that the information sought in the subpoena is necessary to determine whether "the book accurately portrays any notes of conversations with the individuals in the book to whom the statements are attributed. In addition, they are necessary to determine if Gronowicz's records support his claim that he interviewed the various individuals." App. at 62. Moreover, the majority refuses to acknowledge that in a case such as this, where the fraud consists solely of procuring publication of a book which the Government alleges is untrue, the purpose of the investigation must be to establish the truth of the book itself, and not merely the truth of the representations about the book. If the book is true there can be no fraud. In sum, the Government's purpose for procuring the information sought is clear. It wished to ascertain from Gronowicz the truth of the statements he made in his book.

3. The majority correctly states that a grand jury subpoena must fulfill three requirements in order to be valid. It must be "(1) relevant to an investigation, (2) properly within the grand jury's jurisdiction, and (3) not sought primarily for another purpose." (*Schofield II*), 507 F.2d at 966. We must determine in this appeal, therefore, whether the government issued the subpoena with a "proper purpose" when its aim was to determine whether Gronowicz's book is true or false. Unlike the majority, I do not believe that it did. Under established Supreme Court precedent, the First Amendment protects citizens from government prosecution for false speech. For instance, in *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964), the Supreme

Court recognized that "erroneous statement is inevitable in free debate, and . . . must be protected if the freedoms of expression are to have the 'breathing space' that they 'need . . . to survive,'" 376 U.S. 254, 271-72 (1964) (quoting *N.A.A.C.P. v. Button*, 371 U.S. 415, 433 (1963)). And in *N.A.A.C.P. v. Button*, 371 U.S. 415, 445 (1963), the Court emphasized that protection by the First Amendment does not depend on "the truth, popularity, or social utility of the ideas or beliefs which are offered." In *Cantwell v. Connecticut*, 310 U.S. 296, 310 (1940), the Court concluded its discussion of the First Amendment by stating:

> To persuade others to his own point of view, the pleader, as we know, at times, resorts to exaggeration, to vili[illegible]ation of men who have been, or are, prominent in church or state, and even to false statement. But the people of this nation have ordained in the light of history, that, in spite of the probability of excesses and abuses, these liberties are, in the long view, essential to enlightened opinion and right conduct on the part of the citizens of a democracy.

4. It is clear, therefore, that established Supreme Court precedent supports the position that false speech, not alleged to be defamatory, receives protection under the First Amendment. The subpoena in this case, which seeks to reach notes and other supporting data from Gronowicz to prove the book's truth, infringes significantly on the author's first amendment rights. The Government asserts that its interest in enforcing the mail and wire fraud statutes justifies its action. But the Supreme Court has consistently held that official action with adverse impact on first amendment rights must be justified by a governmental interest that is "compelling,"

"overriding," or "paramount." *N.A.A.C.P v. Button*, 371 U.S. 415, 438 (1963) ("only a compelling state interest . . . can justify limiting First Amendment freedoms."); *Gibson v. Florida Legislative Investigating Committee*, 372 U.S. 539, 546 (1963) ("[I]t is an essential prerequisite to the validity of an investigation which intrudes into the area of constitutionally protected rights of speech, press, association and petition that the state convincingly show a substantial relation between the information sought and a subject of overriding and compelling state interest."); *Bates v. Little Rock*, 361 U.S. 516, 524 (1960) ("Where there is a significant encroachment upon personal liberty, the State may prevail only upon showing a subordinating interest which is compelling."); *Thomas v. Collins*, 323 U.S. 516, 530 (1945) ("Only the gravest abuses, endangering paramount interests, give occasion for permissible limitation.").

5. Here the mail and wire fraud alleged by the Government is inextricably meshed with the contents of the book. The Government's admitted purpose is to probe the truth of the book. Since the Government has not set forth an independent compelling interest - other than an interest in preventing the fraud of false statements in the book - I would not enforce the grand jury subpoena in this case.

6. The majority relies on *Herbert v. Lando*, 441 U.S. 153 (1979), and a number of other civil libel cases as support for its position that the subpoena is valid. But these cases differ fundamentally from the case before us. In *Herbert v. Lando*, 441 U.S. 153 (1979), for example, the plaintiff instituted a private civil action in diversity for defamation against a television network and two of its employees. The plaintiff conceded that he was a public figure and recognized that he was required to prove that the defendants published damaging falsehoods with knowledge that they were

false or in reckless disregard of their truth or falsity. The defendants refused to answer a variety of questions asked in discovery, asserting that the first amendment barred any inquiry into the state of mind of those who edit, produce or publish news stories, and into the editorial process. The Supreme Court rejected the claim of first amendment privilege. The Court reiterated its holding in *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254 (1964), that the First Amendment did not prohibit a defamation action by a public figure where the plaintiff can prove knowing falsity or reckless disregard for truth or falsity. The Court then went on to hold that it could not "erect an impenetrable barrier" to the plaintiff's ability to prove its case by protecting defendants from inquiry into their editorial processes. *Herbert*, 441 U.S. at 170.

7. The majority's reliance on *Herbert* is misplaced. That case resembles this one in that the investigation was aimed at discovering the truth or falsity of published material and the state of mind of the author. But the investigation in *Herbert* was instituted by a private party, allegedly defamed by the publication, rather than by the government, as in our case. No one can fail to discern the significance of the distinction. The First Amendment primarily protects citizens from *government* intrusion into their freedom of expression, and not against private efforts to gain vindication by civil actions.

8. Similarly, the majority's citation to *United States v. Ballard*, 322 U.S. 78 (1944), fails to provide any convincing support for its position. The Court held there that the Government may not inquire into the truth or validity of any particular religious belief, relying exclusively on the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment. As the opinion reveals, the defendants in that case did not even mount a challenge to the prosecution based on the Free Speech Clause.

Ballard cannot, therefore, legitimately be relied on for the proposition that an author, forced by the Government to prove the truth of a book, has no recourse to the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment.

A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM, JR., *Circuit Judge*, dissenting.

Lurking behind today's decision are the spectres of two quite distinct threats to freedom of the press. First, there is the prospect that criminal investigations predicated on the truth or falsity of the contents of nonfiction works dealing with important political and religious issues will so add to the risks inherent in publishing such works that fewer will be published, thus chilling the flow of information and ideas most central to the first amendment. For the reasons given in Part I of this opinion, I conclude with some regret that under prevailing first amendment doctrine this threat cannot be deemed to outweigh the government's legitimate interest in investigating and prosecuting fraud. There is, however, another threat to freedom of the press posed by the investigatory *procedure* this court sanctions today -- the prospect that compelled disclosure of records, notes, and unpublished information compiled in the course of preparing a work of nonfiction will so inhibit the gathering and recording of facts and intrude upon editorial processes as to chill protected speech. In previous cases this court has developed a formula for accommodating the sometimes competing interests of the criminal justice system and the media. In this case the government has failed to show that it cannot develop the information it needs without exploring the author's notes and records. For the reasons stated in Part II below, I believe that such an unnecessarily intrusive procedure

is impermissible under our established formula and that the judgment of contempt must be reversed. I therefore respectfully dissent.

I.

The difficult issues presented by this case call for especially rigorous first amendment analysis. This, in turn, requires that we first dispense with a number of red herrings that have obscured the true nature of the underlying dispute. First and foremost is the suggestion that this investigation has nothing to do with the contents of *God's Broker*. The book portrays numerous conversations between appellant and Pope John Paul II, often quoting the Pope's words at length. One can readily surmise that this purportedly unprecedented access to the Pope and that these exclusive, in some cases sensational, quotes were material elements in the sale of the publication and movie rights. The government's purpose is apparent on the face of the subpoena at issue, from the supporting *Schofield* affidavits,[1] andfrom its briefs and arguments before the district court and this court -- it seeks to ascertain whether the meetings portrayed in *God's Broker* in fact took place, and whether the quotes reported therein are in fact the Pope's "own words". The ultimate inquiry in this case will be whether appellant was accurate in portraying what the Pope said to him.

Thus, the modified document request seeks "[a]ny and all notes, recordings (mechanical or otherwise), or other record, made by any means, containing, verbatim or in substance, the statements of Pope John Paul II . . . *as contained in the book*." (Emphasis added.) The second *Schofield* affidavit explains:

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1. *See* In re Grand Jury Proceedings (Schofield I), 486 F.2d 85 (3d Cir. 1973); In re Grand Jury Proceedings (Schofield II), 507 F.2d 963 (3d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 421 U.S. 1015 (1975).

"These documents are necessary *to determine if the book accurately portrays any notes of conversations with the individuals in the book* to whom the statements are attributed." (Emphasis added.) The government seeks appellant's travel records "to determine if records exist showing that Gronowicz actually made the various trips to Poland, the Vatican, and other places *which he claims to have visited in the book*." (Emphasis added.) Similarly, appellant's passports are sought to determine whether they "show the travel which would be necessary for him to write the book as it is written." His appointment books are sought "to determine if documentary evidence exists of various meetings which led to the attributions and statements *made in the book*." (Emphasis added.)

I think it is beyond peradventure that this is an investigation into the truthfulness of the contents of *God's Broker*. As I explain below, I do not find that fact dispositive. Yet I think we give appellant's first amendment contentions grievously short shrift if our analysis pretends that this investigation does not implicate the contents of published speech, but rather goes to, as the majority would have it, "misrepresentations about the contents" of published speech.

In a related vein, we must reject the government's contention that this is a "commercial speech" case, much like an investigation of a fraudulent securities or real estate prospectus. *God's Broker* is clearly a book addressing important social and political issues and is therefore, in the main, "core" first amendment speech. The fact that appellant sought to profit by its sale is of no consequence. *See New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254, 265-66 (1964).

On the other hand, there is clearly no merit in appellant's contention that the subpoena is an "impermissible shifting of the burden of proof in a

speech-related area." *See Speiser v. Randall*, 357 U.S. 513 (1958). Appellant is not now asked to "prove" anything. It is the government that must first prove to the grand jury that there is probable cause for indicting, and must ultimately prove all the elements of mail fraud beyond a reasonable doubt. And finally, we may put to one side the suggestion of appellant and amici that the government is attempting to bring a prosecution for seditious libel under the guise of mail fraud. The essence of seditious libel prosecutions -- which I agree are impermissible under the first amendment -- is the punishment of viewpoints, and, in particular, criticism of the government.[2] Indeed, I would readily agree that the first amendment prohibits prosecutions based on the "falsity" of *any* ideas, opinions, viewpoints, or beliefs.[3] Thus, if we were to accept amici's characterization of this investigation as an attempt by the government to side with certain Vatican officials in a dispute over Catholic Church doctrine, the first amendment implications (under the Establishment Clause as well as the Free Speech and Free Press Clauses) would be manifest. I do not, however, see anything in the record that would

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2. The Sedition Act of 1798, ch. 74, 1 Stat. 596 (1845) -- the *bete noire* of appellant's brief -- punished "false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the government of the United States . . . ." There is "broad consensus that the Act, because of the restraint it imposed upon criticism of government and public officials, was inconsistent with the First Amendment." New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. at 276.

3. I believe, as Justice Douglas wrote, that "matters of belief, ideology, religious practices, social philosophy, and the like are beyond the pale and of no rightful concern of government, unless the belief or the speech, or other expression, has been translated into action." Branzburg v. Hayes, 408 U.S. 665, 715 (1972) (dissenting opinion).

indicate that this investigation is not viewpoint-neutral. At this stage we must, I think, accept the government's representation that they are evenhandedly investigating possible false statements of fact (*contained in the book*) that may have induced certain entrepreneurs to part untimely with their venture capital. As the many opinions in the recent case of *Ollman v. Evans*, 750 F.2d 970 (D.C. Cir. 1984) (in banc), *cert. denied*, 53 U.S.L.W. 3836 (U.S. May 28, 1985), indicate, the distinction between facts and viewpoints is a problematic one. Were I writing first amendment law from scratch, I would probably avoid such a distinction. Nonetheless, the distinction has been "elevated to constitutional principle," *Ollman v. Evans*, 750 F.2d at 975, and we cannot disregard it. In this case I think it is clear that statements of fact -- and not the viewpoints of appellant or the Pope -- are the focus of the investigation.

Thus, as I see it, the narrow question before us is to what extent the first amendment protects citizens from a viewpoint-neutral prosecution for making false statements of fact in a nonfiction work dealing with important political and religious issues. I believe that under prevailing first amendment doctrine that protection is quite limited, a recognition of the chilling effect that prosecution may have on truthful speech, rather than a recognition of any first amendment value in falsehoods. "Spreading false information in and of itself carries no First Amendment credentials." *Herbert v. Lando*, 441 U.S. 153, 171 (1979). Justice Powell, in *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.*, 418 U.S. 323 (1974), summed up what I understand to be the prevailing view:

> Under the First Amendment there is no such thing as a false idea. However pernicious an opinion may seem, we depend for its correction not on the conscience of judges and juries but on the

> competition of other ideas. *But there is no constitutional value in false statements of fact.* Neither the intentional lie nor the careless error materially advances society's interest in "uninhibited, robust, and wide open" debate on public issues. . . .
>
> Although the erroneous statement of fact is not worthy of constitutional protection, it is nevertheless inevitable in free debate. . . . And punishment of error runs the risk of inducing a cautious and restrictive exercise of the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of speech and press. . . . The First Amendment requires that we protect some falsehood in order to protect speech that matters.

418 U.S. at 339-41 (emphasis added) (footnotes omitted).

As a result of this line of analysis, libelous statements made in the media receive a measure of protection, not because of their intrinsic first amendment value, but as a prophylactic measure, to "eliminate the risk of undue self-censorship and the suppression of truthful material." *Herbert v. Lando*, 441 U.S. at 172. *See generally* F. Schauer, *Free Speech: A Philosophical Enquiry* 168-173 (1982). Only libelous statements that are *nonculpable* are protected in all contexts. Statements libeling private figures receive no first amendment protection if negligently made, *even in the context of discussion of important public issues. Compare Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.*, 418 U.S. at 346, *with Rosenbloom v. Metromedia, Inc.*, 403 U.S. 29 (1971) (plurality opinion). Libelous statements regarding public officials and "public figures" receive the *highest* degree of first amendment protection, and even they can be actionable if made with "malice" -- *i.e.*, knowingly or recklessly. *New York*

Times Co. v. Sullivan, supra. Thus, unless fraud is to be treated differently from libel under the first amendment -- and I see no readily apparent reason why it should, since it is also "speech" containing false statements of fact that cause palpable harm -- it should not in any context (even, as here, in a book on important issues of public interest) be protected when knowing or reckless. It does indeed appear that under the fraud statutes the government must prove that the falsehoods were knowingly or recklessly made. *See United States v. Sturm*, 671 F.2d 749 (3d Cir.), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 842 (1982); *United States v. Boyer*, 694 F.2d 58 (3d Cir. 1982).

Appellant concedes that he may be subject to civil liability for fraud, but argues that the first amendment does not permit such nice distinctions in the context of criminal prosecutions. I am sympathetic to this view. The consequences, and hence the coercive potential, of criminal prosecutions are profoundly more onerous than those of civil actions.[4] In this context, I find it

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4. *But see* New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. at 277-78 (footnote omitted):

> The fear of damage awards under a rule such as that invoked by the Alabama courts here may be markedly more inhibiting than the fear of prosecution under a criminal statute. . . . Alabama, for example, has a criminal libel law which subjects to prosecution "any person who speaks, writes, or prints of and concerning another any accusation falsely and maliciously importing the commission by such person of a felony, or any other indictable offense involving moral turpitude," and which allows as punishment upon conviction a fine not exceeding $500 and a prison sentence of six months. . . . Presumably a person charged with violation of this statute enjoys ordinary criminal-law safeguards such as the requirements of an indictment and of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. These safeguards are not available to the defendant in a civil action. The judgment awarded in this case -- without the need for any proof of actual pecuniary loss

more difficult to indulge the assumption that punishment of knowing or reckless falsehood will not deter truthful speech. Nonetheless, I think that under current first amendment doctrine "[t]he test is not the form in which state power has been applied but, whatever the form, whether such power has in fact been exercised." *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. at 265. Protected speech may not give rise to criminal *or* civil liability absent a compelling interest, but unprotected speech may give rise to either. In *Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. 64 (1964), a *criminal* libel case, the Court continued to hold that the "knowingly false statement and the false statement made with reckless disregard of the truth, do not enjoy constitutional protection," 379 U.S. at 75, and seemingly concluded that criminal libel prosecutions are permissible, subject only to the malice standard of *New York Times*. *See also Herbert v. Lando*, 441 U.S. at 156 n.1. More recently, the Court has stated:

> The prevailing view is that the press is not free to publish with impunity everything and anything it desires to publish. Although it may deter or regulate what is said or published, the press may not circulate knowing or reckless falsehoods damaging to private reputation without subjecting itself to liability for damages, including punitive damages, or *even criminal prosecution*.

-- was one thousand times greater than the maximum fine provided by the Alabama criminal statute, and one hundred times greater than that provided by the Sedition Act. And since there is no double-jeopardy limitation applicable to civil lawsuits, this is not the only judgment that may be awarded against petitioners for the same publication.

I would also note that the record indicates that publication of appellant's biography of Greta Garbo has been delayed many years by the threat of a lawsuit by Miss Garbo.

Branzburg v. Hayes, 408 U.S. 665, 683 (1972) (emphasis added). Again, unless fraud is different in some significant way from libel, the first amendment would not seem to prohibit a criminal prosecution.

I find the first amendment theory espoused in the dissents of Judge Hunter and Judge Sloviter an attractive one, and were we writing on a clean slate I would wholeheartedly endorse it. I have no doubt that investigations such as this one contribute incrementally to a climate that discourages the publication of books on controversial topics, but I do not see any basis in prevailing first amendment theory for stepping in and halting this investigation.

II.

The question of whether the government may inquire into the truthfulness of statements of fact in a work of nonfiction -- and prosecute the author for knowing or reckless falsehoods -- is analytically distinct from the question of *how* the government may proceed. Over the past fifteen years, the problems associated with attempts by government investigators to compel the press to turn over unpublished information in its possession have received considerable attention. This court, in an attempt to accommodate the competing interests, and under the authority of Federal Rule of Evidence 501,[5] has recognized an evidentiary privilege for journalists. *See*

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5. This rule provides in relevant part:

> Except as otherwise required by the Constitution of the United States or provided by Act of Congress or in rules prescribed by the Supreme Court pursuant to statutory authority, the privilege of a witness . . . shall be governed by the principles of the common law as they may be interpreted by the courts of the United States in the light of reason and experience. . . .

Riley v. City of Chester, 612 F.2d 708 (3d Cir. 1979). Most relevant in the context of this case, we have held that "journalists possess a qualified privilege not to divulge confidential sources *and not to disclose unpublished information in their possession in criminal cases.*" *United States v. Cuthbertson*, 630 F.2d 139, 147 (3d Cir. 1980) (emphasis added), *cert. denied*, 449 U.S. 1126 (1981). *See also United States v. Criden*, 633 F.2d 346, 348 (3d Cir. 1980), *cert. denied*, 449 U.S. 1113 (1981).

Cuthbertson involved an order for CBS to produce all statements given to "60 Minutes" investigators by government witnesses. Writing for the court, Judge Seitz specifically rejected the contention that the privilege was limited to protecting confidential sources:

> We do not think the privilege can be limited solely to protection of sources. The compelled production of a reporter's resource materials can constitute a significant intrusion into the newsgathering and editorial processes. . . . Like the compelled disclosure of confidential sources, it may substantially undercut the public policy favoring the free flow of information to the public that is the foundation for the privilege.

630 F.2d at 147. We found that a privilege against disclosure of a reporter's "sources and unpublished notes" is necessary for "protecting confidential sources, preventing intrusion into the editorial process, and avoiding the possibility of self-censorship created by compelled disclosure . . . ." *Id.* I believe that the latter two concerns -- and possibly even the first -- are implicated by the government's sweeping request for appellant's notes and records. The "hassle" and exposure that complying with subpoenas such as this one may entail, it has been observed, may lead

journalists to suppress writings that could pique a prosecutor's curiosity. *See* Blasi, *The Newsman's Privilege: An Empirical Study*, 70 Mich. L. Rev. 229, 265 (1971); Comment, *The Newsman's Privilege: Government Investigations, Criminal Prosecutions and Private Litigation*, 58 Calif. L. Rev. 1198, 1207-08 (1970). Professor Blasi empirically verified that the "reporters most hindered by the possibility of being subpoenaed are those who seek a composite picture, who check and cross-check their information with numerous sources . . . and who keep extensive files and tapes for future verification reference . . . ." 70 Mich. L. Rev. at 271. *See also United States v. Burke*, 700 F.2d 70 (2d Cir.) (privilege extends to magazine's "work papers"), *cert. denied*, ___ U.S. ___, 104 S. Ct. 72 (1983).

Concededly, our prior cases do not deal with the precise situation we now have before us -- where a subpoena is directed to the author of a book who is the target of a grand jury investigation into the truthfulness of his assertions of fact -- but I believe that the privilege and its rationale are broad enough to cover this case. In *Cuthbertson* we recognized that even compelled production of unpublished information for *in camera* inspection by the court may inhibit the gathering and dissemination of information, and we applied the privilege to such an order. 630 F.2d at 148. *See also New York Times Co. v. Jascalevich*, 439 U.S. 1304 (1978) (Marshall, Circuit Justice). *A fortiori*, it should apply to grand jury subpoenas.[6] Nor can it matter that appellant's medium was a book, rather

---

6. As a general rule, evidentiary privileges apply to grand jury proceedings. *See* United States v. Calandra, 414 U.S. 338, 346 (1974) ("[T]he grand jury's subpoena power is not unlimited. It . . . may not itself violate a valid privilege, whether established by the Constitution, statutes, or the common law.") (footnote omitted); *see also* Fed. R. Evid. 1101.

than a newspaper article (as in *Criden*) or a television news magazine (as in *Cuthbertson*). And finally, I do not think the journalist's privilege, any more than any other evidentiary privilege, can evaporate merely because the person claiming it is the target of the investigation, though undoubtedly it may be somewhat easier for prosecutors to overcome the privilege in this situation. Indeed, in *Cuthbertson* and *Criden* we recognized that even the fifth and sixth amendment rights *of a defendant seeking exculpatory information* cannot vitiate the privilege -- rather, these are interests that the privilege is designed to accommodate. The grand jury's interest in investigating and accusing clearly stands on no higher plain than a defendant's right to compulsory process. *See generally* Comment, *The Newsperson's Privilege in Grand Jury Proceedings: An Argument for Uniform Recognition and Application*, 75 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 413 (1984). Like other evidentiary privileges, this one simply recognizes that some interests and relationships are "of sufficient social importance to justify some incidental sacrifice of sources of facts needed in the administration of justice." *Herbert v. Lando*, 441 U.S. at 183 (Brennan, J., dissenting) (quoting *McCormick on Evidence* 152 (2d ed. 1972)).

The journalist's privilege accommodates these competing interests by permitting access to unpublished information held by journalists where a three-part showing is made:

> First, the movant must demonstrate that he has made an effort to obtain the information from other sources. Second, he must demonstrate that the only access to the information sought is through the journalist and her sources. Finally, the movant must persuade the court that the information sought is crucial to the claim.

Criden, 633 F.2d at 358-59. I have carefully reviewed the government's *Schofield* submissions, and I am convinced that they cannot meet this burden. Their sweeping subpoena would require production of some information that could have only the most attenuated relevance to any alleged mail fraud: for example, "[a]ny and all handwritten or typed documents containing the name, signature, or any other notation connotating the names of Pope John Paul II, John Cardinal Krol, Cardinal Rubin, Cardinal Wyszynski and/or Cardinal Glemp for the period January 1, 1979 to the present." Though the government claims this request is necessary to determine whether there exists written correspondence between Gronowicz and the individuals named, I think it is clear that it must encompass nearly every piece of paper appellant accumulated in preparing *God's Broker*. The subpoena further seeks "[a]ny and all written correspondence and/or letters bearing the signature of any agent, employee or representative of the Vatican and/or the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the time period January 1, 1979 to the present." It is necessary that these documents be examined, we are told, "to determine what representations were made to agents of the Roman Catholic Church in order to garner the various statements which Gronowicz makes in the book." Mail and wire fraud are concerned with false representations used to obtain money or property, not with representations made to garner statements. The breadth of these requests bespeaks a fishing expedition, not an attempt to obtain "crucial" information. Much of the material sought that might arguably be "crucial" could probably be obtained from sources other than the appellant. In any event, the record does not indicate that the government has made any effort to conduct its investigation in a manner less threatening to a free press.

In this case, the government has utterly failed to contend or to show that it cannot develop the information it seeks through *other* sources, without having to explore the author's notes and records. My disagreement with the majority is not as to whether mail fraud *can* be investigated, but rather as to *how* it can be investigated when the *Cuthbertson* privilege is involved. I have no doubt that the repeal of the *Cuthbertson* privilege would be a great convenience to prosecutors. But until that tragic day occurs prosecutors must live with the rule and at least pursue other sources before compelling production of an author's notes and records, and even then they must narrowly circumscribe their subpoenas.

The government has not made a showing of need that would overcome appellant's qualified privilege to resist disclosure of documents compiled in the preparation of *God's Broker*. Therefore, I would reverse the judgment of contempt on this narrow ground. Such a disposition would not preclude the government from continuing this investigation or, indeed, from seeking enforcement of a modified subpoena.

SLOVITER, *Circuit Judge*, dissenting.

I join in Judge Hunter's dissent and, as a secondary position, concur in Part II of Judge Higginbotham's dissenting opinion asserting that the government's *Schofield* submissions were inadequate to overcome Gronowicz' journalists' privilege. I write separately only to express my profound concern about the First Amendment values that the court has undermined by its decision today.

I sense an unarticulated unease in the opinions of most of my colleagues, somewhat like the bogeyman a frightened child is unwilling to describe for fear that it will then assume the mantle of reality. But if the

emperor has no clothes, we should say so. The holding of this court opens the way for use of the uniquely powerful weapon of a grand jury investigation to inhibit publication of books because of their content not only by an unscrupulous prosecutor but, what is more dangerous, by one who is imbued with a sense of zealous righteousness.

This case is not governed by any of the authorities relied on by the majority. This is not, as one of my colleagues suggested at oral argument, a publication from "a mail order house advertis[ing] a book saying that if you buy it and read it, you will be able to lose weight without diet, without exercise and without medicine." Transcript of oral argument at 6. It has not been denied that at issue is a matter of legitimate public interest.

Nor is this like a prosecution for criminal libel which, as the Supreme Court has noted, has virtually disappeared. *See Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. 64, 69 (1964). The majority, while citing to that portion of *Garrison* that held that truth, unlike calculated falsehood, is an absolute defense to such a prosecution, has failed to point out that in the same opinion Justice Brennan, writing for the Court with no dissent, strongly suggested that criminal libel must be limited to speech that has a clear and present danger of leading to public disorder. *Id.* at 70. He approvingly referred to the absence of any criminal libel statute in the then pending draft of the Model Penal Code of the American Law Institute, and to the Reporters' explanation eliminating such a statute because "[u]sually we reserve the criminal law for harmful behavior which exceptionally disturbs the community's sense of 'security'." *Id.* at 70, *quoting* Model Penal Code, Tent. Draft No. 13, 1961, § 250.7, Comments at 44. *God's Broker* has not been alleged to be "speech calculated to cause breaches of the peace."

The majority's suggestion that the Court's holding in *Garrison* that defenses available in civil libel suits are also available in criminal libel prosecutions was thereby a rejection of any distinction between civil and criminal libel actions is not only wrong but may be dangerous if it forebodes an approval of criminal libel prosecutions, now in general disrepute.

I am not as disturbed as are some of my colleagues that lurking behind the book is the possibility of fraud. If either the publisher or the putative movie producer has in fact been defrauded, there is ample opportunity for them to recover in civil litigation. I am distressed because the majority fails to recognize the quintessential difference between the issue here and that presented in the civil libel cases from which it freely borrows -- and that is the role played by the government and its ability to control, and even manipulate, the grand jury.

The following colloquy took place during the oral argument between this writer and the United States Attorney:

> THE COURT: . . . Suppose in the 1970's, two authors went to a publisher and they said, "We have some information from somebody we'll call Deep Throat in the government who is feeding us -- who has fed us with information about what's happening in the White House," . . . could the administration then say that's false and we are going to have a Grand Jury investigation to ascertain the truth or falsity of that central issue even before the book came out or if the book came out, even thereafter?
>
> Is the analogy apt and would you answer?
>
> MR. DENNIS: I think the analogy is apt and I answer it this way: The power to investigate and the power to prosecute is the power to

> intimidate, it's the power to disrupt and it is certainly the power, perhaps, to intimidate an author from not publishing a book.
>
> . . .
>
> I think that it is always a risk that a government agency could abuse its authority for purposes of expressing ideas and thoughts that might be dangerous to the current administration or that might displease government officials.
>
> THE COURT: . . . And if there is this risk that you say there may be by government in power, where does the First Amendment protect an individual?
>
> MR. DENNIS: I think that the first line of protection does come under the challenge on the basis of Grand Jury abuse and none was found here. There is simply no basis for the Court to conclude and the district court did not find and the panel in this case did not find that the motive for this investigation had anything to do with offending the government or government officials with regard to the contents of that book.

Transcript of Oral Argument at 21-23.

The investigation that served as the focus of the court's questions was that by Woodward and Bernstein into the Watergate affair, an investigation that contributed to the resignation of a President. Gronowicz lists the following as other possible targets of grand jury investigation for offending "the sensibilities of the powerful." Appellant's brief at 7-8: "Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*; Seymour Hersh's, *Kissinger*; Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed*: William Shawcross's *Sideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and the Destruction of Cambodia*; [and Walter & Miriam]

Schneir's book on the Rosenberg case, *Invitation to an Inquest*". Searching somewhat deeper into history, one could add Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species* and the works of Galileo, all of which were seen in their time as threatening the views of the established orthodoxy. It is unrealistic to believe that "ideas, opinion, viewpoints, and beliefs," which Judge Higginbotham would protect from prosecution are going to be published without an accompanying assertion of "statements of fact", the bricks on which the edifice of ideas must be constructed. If such "facts", whether they concern the decendency of humans from apes, the motion of the earth around the sun, or the unlawful behavior of all the president's men, can be the proper subject of a criminal investigation into truth, then the First Amendment is ephemeral protection for the ideas and opinions on which they are based.

The majority, the concurrers, and Judge Higginbotham in his dissent all adopt the government's position that the limit of the protection against the inhibiting effect of criminal investigation into writings of public interest is the availability of a challenge that the grand jury inquiry or its subpoena is not undertaken to further a proper grand jury investigation. I am unwilling to place all my reliance on a reed of such an evanescent quality since regrettably there is, as yet, no precedent to support Judge Becker's position that the government may have a heavier burden to meet the *Schofield II* requirement in such a case.

The absence of any precedent as direct authority to support quashing the subpoena and reversing the contempt citation is telling evidence that no earlier government in this country has used the criminal process to inquire into the validity of a book, pamphlet, or other writing that deals with an important public

issue. Even were the assertions in Gronowicz's book inaccurate, and even were it to be found that they were deliberately so, an issue on which I have no opinion, I would hold that a criminal prosecution focusing on the truth of the contents would be incompatible with the First Amendment. We have constructed an elaborate system in our criminal law that is designed to protect one innocent defendant, even at the expense of leaving numerous guilty persons go free. *See* 4 Blackstone, Commentaries *358. Is it not at least equally important to relegate one potentially fraudulent book to the remedy provided by the civil law in order to insure that there is no inhibition in the future on speech concerning public affairs? After all, "speech concerning public affairs is more than self-expression; it is the essence of self-government." *Garrison v. Louisiana*, 379 U.S. at 74-75.

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for the Third Circuit

Supreme Court, U.S.
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CLERK

No. 85-515 (4)

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1985

ANTONI GRONOWICZ, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

CHARLES FRIED
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES IN OPPOSITION

---

1. Petitioner authored a book entitled *God's Broker: The Life of John Paul II* (1984), a biography of Pope John Paul II which purports to be based, in part, on numerous private interviews with the Pope himself and other high officials of the Roman Catholic Church. After questions had surfaced regarding the occurrence of the interviews recounted in petitioner's book, a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania began an investigation into the question whether petitioner had violated the federal mail and wire fraud statutes, 18 U.S.C. 1341 and 1343, by procuring substantial sums of money from the sale of publishing and movie rights through fraudulent representations that his book was based upon personal interviews with the Pope. On August 8, the grand jury issued a subpoena duces tecum to petitioner, commanding him to testify before the grand

jury and to produce various records (C.A. App. A5-A7).[1] Petitioner objected to the subpoena on several grounds, including the claim that he was privileged under the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment from producing any of the subpoenaed items because the grand jury's investigation would involve consideration of the truth or falsity of matters stated in his book (C.A. App. A8-A9). After two separate hearings, the district court rejected petitioner's claims and held him in contempt for refusing to comply with the court's order (C.A. App. A55, A217-A227, A234, A254-A255, A257-A263). Petitioner appealed, and the en banc court of appeals, by a divided vote, upheld the contempt judgment, rejecting his claim that he was privileged under the First Amendment from producing any of the subpoenaed items (Pet. App. A1-A19).[2]

2. We have been informed by counsel for petitioner that petitioner died after the petition in this case was filed. We have also been informed by the United States Attorney's Office that the grand jury investigation of petitioner's activities has ceased and that no further investigation of this matter is contemplated. Accordingly, there is no longer a justiciable case or controversy between the parties. The petition for a writ of certiorari therefore should be denied.

---

[1]The grand jury's subpoena was subsequently narrowed by an ordered entered by the district court on October 16 on the government's motion (C.A. App. A69-A71).

[2]A panel of the court of appeals had previously reversed the district court's judgment, but the panel decision was vacated when the court of appeals granted the government's suggestion for rehearing en banc. The panel decision is not reprinted in the appendix to the petition. We have lodged a copy of the opinion with the Clerk.

Cf. *Mintzes* v. *Buchanon,* No. 84-501 (Apr. 15, 1985); *Dove* v. *United States,* 423 U.S. 325 (1976).[3]

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

CHARLES FRIED
Solicitor General

DECEMBER 1985

---

[3]It is the position of the United States, more fully explicated in our brief in opposition in *Velsicol Chemical Corp.* v. *United States,* No. 77-900 (a copy of which we are serving on petitioner's counsel), that the judgment of the court of appeals in a case that has become moot prior to action on a petition for writ of certiorari should not be vacated unless this Court would have granted review had the matter remained a live controversy. In *Velsicol,* certiorari was denied (435 U.S. 942 (1978)) despite the petitioner's request that the judgment of the court of appeals be vacated as moot. Under the standard that we proposed in *Velsicol,* the petition in this case should be denied. While the claim advanced by petitioner was a novel and imaginative one, its rejection by the court of appeals created no conflict among the circuits or other reason for review by this Court. Moreover, the Court's action in *Mintzes* v. *Buchanon, supra,* suggests that denial or dismissal of the petition here may be appropriate even if the issue it presents were deemed worthy of this Court's review.

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IN RE
GRAND JURY MATTER
ANTONI GRONOWICZ,

Petitioner,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

PETITIONER'S REPLY BRIEF

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Point I

This case is not moot because God's Broker remains suppressed by a judicially approved, unconstitutional government investigation which continues to chill authors and publishers from wide open, robust and uninhibited speech.

The government's unconstitutional investigation of the truth or falsity of God's Broker has undermined the book's credibility, removed it from bookstores, and severely diminished its economic value. Instead of permitting the contents of God's Broker to be fairly tested in the marketplace of ideas, the government intervened with an unprecedented criminal investigation into the book's truth. The Court of Appeals erroneously condoned this intimidating, inhibiting and stigmatizing governmental interference with free speech. The book remains withdrawn and publishers are now fearful of republishing it because of this unconstitutional investigation

erroneously supported by the courts.

Petitioner's counsel requests that Mr. Gronowicz' widow and primary heir, Sophie Gronowicz, be substituted as legal representative for the deceased so that the right to publish God's Broker without governmental interference may be vindicated. All the materials subpoenaed by the grand jury possessed by her husband are now possessed by Sophie Gronowicz, and she now stands in his position with the same commitments. It is her highest purpose and resolve to have the book republished and widely circulated. Whatever the government may claim, Mr. Gronowicz' death does not remove the need to resolve the fundamental controversy of this case -- whether God's Broker may be marketed and distributed free from the threat and burden of a judicially approved government investigation into its truth. The contemplated discontinuance of the

investigation does not remove the damage of past investigation and judicial approval or the threat and chill of possible future investigation. Judicial approval of the investigation irreparably damages the economic value of the book and its potential for publication more effectively than would an indictment. The imprimatur of the federal judiciary is stamped on this condemnation of God's Broker. This Court should reverse the judicial approval by granting certiorari and holding any investigation of the book, past or future, unconstitutional.

The government has not damaged God's Broker or First Amendment values any the less because of Mr. Gronowicz' death. The book did not die when its author died. Sophie Gronowicz intends to have God's Broker republished. The government's conduct in investigating the book continues

to have a chilling effect on her and prospective publishers. The book was damaged by adverse publicity arising from the judicially approved criminal investigation. That judicial approval remains the law and is the salient fact in public opinion about God's Broker.

As long as there is no ruling that the investigation of the book was constitutionally improper, the book remains unconstitutionally burdened by the executive and the judiciary in future efforts to obtain publishers, readers and an opportunity for ultimate vindication in the marketplace.

Mrs. Gronowicz' husband was firmly resolved, in spite of extremely precarious health, to resist this unprecedented assault on the First Amendment, to obtain the widest possible audience for his book, and to thwart the government's attempt to discredit it. Total destruction of God's Broker by government action is well

advanced and the unconstitutional burden on distribution of the book has not been remedied by the courts. Potential publishers and Sophie Gronowicz must remain concerned that they will subject themselves to a criminal investigation by republishing the book. They must be skeptical that the public will buy a book which has been criminally investigated with judicial approval. The assertion by the United States Attorney that "no further investigation of this matter is contemplated" is not a promise or a commitment and may only be contingent upon self-censorship and self-silencing by whoever owns the book.

Under present circumstances, Sophie Gronowicz, the primary owner of the copyright of God's Broker, is posed with a real dilemma created by the government's unconstitutional conduct: whether to withhold the book from its rightful place

in the marketplace of ideas, contrary to the clear wishes of her husband, or to republish the book, thereby risking a renewal of the unconstitutional investigation with all the resulting burdens, jeopardies, and expenses to family members and the publisher. Both choices are weighted by knowledge that the book has been damned by the government with judicial approval.

The grounds for a ruling that this case is not moot are stronger than those held to establish non-mootness in Nebraska Press Association v. Stuart, 427 U.S. 539, 546-547 (1976). Only likely future repetitions of the dispute were present in Nebraska Press. There, as noted in Murphy v. Hunt, 455 U.S. 478, 483 (1982), the controversy between the parties was capable of repetition in large part because the dispute between the Nebraska Press Association and the State of Nebraska

was likely to recur. Here there is a dispute that is similarly likely to recur, because the enduring interest of the Authors League of America, Inc., and the American Civil Liberties Union, amici curiae, in the relevant issues is similar to that of the Nebraska Press Association. In the instant case, however, the dispute between the government and those who would sponsor, publish, or sell God's Broker not only is likely to recur, but the inhibiting and chilling effect of the government's conduct on potential sponsors, publishers and sellers is a present reality now.

Point II

If this Court concludes that the case is moot, it should grant the petition for certiorari, vacate the decision below and remand the case for dismissal.

In United States v. Munsingwear, 340 U.S. 36, 39 (1940), this Court stated:

> The established practice of this Court in dealing with a civil case from a court in the federal system which has become moot while on its way here or pending our decision on the merits is to reverse or vacate the judgment below and remand with a direction to dismiss.

Vacation and remand is not discretionary; it is "the duty of the appellate court." Id. at 40, quoting Duke Power Co. v. Greenwood County, 299 U.S. 259, 267 (1936). Vacation and remand removes the res judicata and stare decisis effect of the judgment and decisions below.

The Court continues to follow this established practice in civil cases that become moot pending review. See, e.g.

Iron Arrow Honor Society v. Heckler, 464 U.S. 67, 73 (1983); Tulare Lake Canal Co. v. United States, 459 U.S. 1095 (1983); Securities and Exchange Commission v. Board of Trade of Chicago, 459 U.S. 1026 (1982). The rule applies whether mootness results from a party's death, see Fletcher v. Bryan, 361 U.S. 126 (1959), or from some other circumstance. See, e.g., Iron Arrow, supra.

The sole exception to this practice occurs when a party dies pending this Court's direct or collateral review of his federal or state criminal conviction. In that situation the Court will dismiss the petition or appeal which has the effect of letting the lower court decision stand. Dove v. United States, 423 U.S. 325 (1976); Mintzes v. Buchanon, ____ U.S. ____, 105 S. Ct. 2006 (1985).

This is a civil case, which if it is moot, is controlled by Munsingwear. The

decision of which review is sought affirms an order holding Gronowicz in civil contempt for failing to comply with a subpoena duces tecum. Gronowicz was not convicted of, or even indicted for, a crime. Hence, the exception for review of criminal convictions is inapplicable.

Because the government has stated it does not contemplate pursuing its investigation of Gronowicz's book, it can point to no collateral consequences that justify letting the Court of Appeals' opinion stand.

The government is taking the position in this case that the judgment below should be vacated only if the Court would have granted certiorari, and that the petition should be denied because the case is not worthy of review, citing Dove and Mintzes without mention of Munsingwear. See U.S. Mem. in Opp. at p. 3, n.3.

This argument is without merit for two reasons. First, this case is controlled by Munsingwear and application of Munsingwear has never turned on the merits of a petition for certiorari. This Court has never accepted this argument of the government. See Commodity Futures Trading Commission v. Board of Trade of Chicago, 701 F. 2d 653, 657 (7th Cir. 1983).

Second, even if the government is correct in proposing "certworthiness" as a prerequisite to vacation and remand, this case satisfies that requirement.

As both the petition itself and the supporting briefs of amici curiae make clear, this case presents a significant constitutional issue. It requires the Court to determine whether, and under what circumstances, the First Amendment permits a criminal inquiry into the truth or

falsity of a book. It raises the questions whether a difference of constitutional magnitude exists between civil and criminal punishment for false speech, and whether purportedly intentional false speech ever merits constitutional protection. A decision in this case would affect all authors and journalists who write about matters of public interest. The case thus satisfies one of the established criteria for certiorari. See Sup. Ct. R. 17.1(c).

Furthermore, the government's argument that no conflict on this issue exists among the circuits, see Sup. Ct. R. 17.1(a), is irrelevant in this situation. Gronowicz's case is unprecedented; the federal government has never before asked a court to permit a criminal inquiry into the validity of an author's work.

A strong indication of the decision's certworthiness is the number of opinions it generated: a majority, two

concurrences and three separate dissents among the eleven judges who heard the case in banc. This "internal" conflict in a case of first impression demonstrates that a substantial basis for certiorari exists if the case is not moot.

Gronowicz's case presents a meritorious petition for certiorari. Thus, even if the government correctly asserts that "certworthiness" is a prerequisite for application of Munsingwear, this case satisfies that requirement. Accordingly, this Court should grant the petition for certiorari, vacate the decision below and remand the case with directions to dismiss it.

CONCLUSION

The petition for a writ of certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit should be granted. The judgment below should be reviewed on the merits, or if the case is moot, should be vacated and the case remanded to the District Court for dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,

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BRIEF *AMICUS CURIAE* OF THE AUTHORS LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC. IN SUPPORT OF THE PETITION

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the First Amendment prohibits a federal grand jury investigation of the truth or falsity of factual statements in a book?

2. Whether the First Amendment precludes the government from compelling the author of the book to testify or produce documents in such an investigation?

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM 1985

ANTONI GRONOWICZ,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

BRIEF OF THE AUTHORS LEAGUE OF AMERICA, AS AMICUS CURIAE, IN SUPPORT OF THE PETITION

INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE

With the written consent of the parties, The Authors League submits this brief in support of Antoni Gronowicz's petition for a writ of certiorari. The League is the national society of professional authors and dramatists, and expresses the views of its 14,000 members

on First Amendment issues. It has submitted briefs to this Court in appeals involving those issues. It files this brief to urge that a writ of certiorari be granted because the decision below raises unprecedented First Amendment questions of great importance to authors and others who disseminate information to the public, which urgently require review by this Court.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

Introduction: Impact Of The Court of Appeal's Opinion On on Authors and Journalists.

The Court of Appeals held that the United States constitutionally can mount a grand jury investigation into the alleged falsity of statements about Pope John Paul II, made by petitioner in his book GOD'S BROKER. That conclusion, unprecedented in First Amendment jurisprudence, enormously expands the govern-

ment's power to subject the author of a dissenting or controversial work to a grand jury inquisition about the truth of his book, and to mail fraud prosecution under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1341, by claiming it contains false factual statements and alleging these induced a publisher to issue the book.

The Court's opinion does not limit this repressive power, and its chilling effect on other authors, to those areas where the scope of First Amendment protection is qualified; i.e. suits for libel or invasion of privacy, and prosecutions for obscenity, sedition or uttering "fighting words". (cf. Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire, 315 U.S. 568, 571-2 (1942)). GOD'S BROKER is not defamatory and was not charged with any of these other transgressions.

Rather, the opinion holds that

grand juries may probe the alleged falsity of factual statements in books or articles on people and subjects of intense public interest, areas where the First Amendment was thought to guarantee uninhibited freedom of expression.

The chilling effect of this newly-discovered power of investigation and prosecution is mind-boggling. Not since the Sedition Act of 1798 has the government sought such power to restrict freedom of expression. If the decision below is allowed to stand, authors can be deterred from publishing factual statements on "dangerous" issues and powerful individuals and officials by the threat of a grand jury mail-fraud investigation, or subsequent prosecution.

The opinion, moreover, does not limit this power of investigation to an extrinsic fraud. There is no claim that

petitioner used forged evidence to persuade his publishers that the book's allegedly false accounts of interviews with the Pope were bona fide; it is not charged, for example, that he gave them fabricated tapes of the Papal interviews. To the contrary, the fraudulent material charged is intrinsic to GOD'S BROKER, i.e. the book's accounts of petitioner's interviews with the Pope. Indeed, the majority opinion stressed the grand jury had to "examine the accuracy of its (the book's) contents" since Gronowicz's representations to his publisher and the putative film producer mirrored those portions of the book dealing with "the extent of Gronowicz's personal contact with Pope John Paul II." A8. See also: Justice Hunter's opinion, A19-20 and Justice Higgenbotham's opinion, A25-26.

The decision below raises unprecedented and important First Amendment issues concerning the government´s power to conduct a grand jury investigation of the truth of factual statements in a book that is well within the the protective boundries of the First Amendment; a work such as GOD´S BROKER which deals with political, social and religious subjects, and the views and utterances of one of the world´s most powerful leaders. The Authors League submits the Court should grant the writ so that it can resolve these vital issues which are bound arise repeatedly, because of the decision below, and will have a drastic impact on authors and journalists.

1. THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROHIBITS GRAND JURY INVESTIGATIONS OF THE TRUTH OR FALSITY OF FACTUAL STATEMENTS IN PETITIONER'S BOOK

A. The First Amendment Protects False Statements Of Fact Against Post-Publication Restraints

The Court of Appeals held that unqualified First Amendment protection is only available against "prior restraint upon the dissemination of truthful information." A8. We believe it erred.

First Amendment protection applies with equal force to restraints after publication. Holding a post-publication restraint unconstitutional in Smith v. California, 361 U.S. 147 (1949), the Court said:

> "a man may the less be required to act at his peril here, because the free dissemination of ideas may be the loser. Winters v. New York, 333 U.S. 507, 509-610, 517-518." (p. 151)

Nor is the Amendment's protection

restricted because the author wrote his book to earn income. "It is of course no matter that the dissemination takes place under commercial auspices. See Joseph Burstyn Inc. v. Wilson, 343 U.S. 495; Grosjean v. American Press Co., 297 U.S. 233.", Smith v. California, supra, at. p. 150.

As Judge Hunter and Judge Sloviter concluded, the First Amendment barred the grand jury's investigation of alleged false factual statements in GOD'S BROKER because it protects false as well as true factual accounts against the restraints inherent in such inquisitions and threats of criminal sanctions. The First Amendment's guarantees are not subject to "any test of truth" and "erroneous statement ... must be protected if the freedoms of expression are to have the 'breathing space' that 'they need ... to

survive...'", New York Times v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. 254, 271-272 (1964). The authorities cited by Judge Hunter sustain his conclusion that:

> "established Supreme Court precedent supports the position that false speech, not alleged to be defamatory, receives protection under the First Amendment." A21

The government does not charge that GOD'S BROKER is defamatory.

B. The First Amendment Precludes The Grand Jury Investigation

Prosecution of petitioner under the mail fraud statute would violate the First Amendment. So, too, does the the grand jury proceeding. Theinvestigation creates those chilling effects which cause self-censorship, that "self-imposed restriction of free expression" which undermines the guarantees of the First Amendment. Smith v. California.,

supra, at p. 151. The Court has recognized that self-censorship is stimulated by pressures inherent in civil and criminal legal proceedings against authors or publishers. (e.g., New York Times v. Sullivan, supra; Smith v. California, supra.)

These pressures include heavy costs of defense, the months lost to preparation for trial, fear of possible imprisonment or fine, the stigma on the author (despite ultimate vindication), press criticism, and the risk that the author's publisher - intimidated by the investigtion - might withdraw the book. As the Court has indicated, authors whose factual statements are true nonetheless may yield to self-censorship under these pressures, and because of "the difficulties of adducing legal proofs" that the statements challenged

by the government or a private party indeed were true. (New York Times v. Sullivan, supra, at p.279).

In addition to the hearsay evidence rule, which would drastically hamper the writing of history, biography and journalism were authors forced by by self-censorship to apply it in their work, there is the lurking danger that individuals who provided information for the the author's challenged account may die, disappear, refuse to testify, withhold documents, or even deny or recant the statements made to the author - or give a contradictory statement to the grand jury or trial court - under official or private pressure, or inducement; posing the further risk that the author might be indicted for perjury if he testified before the grand jury.

Faced with these chilling

effects of a grand jury investigation or prosecution, some authors will avoid publishing true factual statements about government policies, public officials, or powerful intererst or individuals, for fear of incurring the costs, burdens and other painful consequences that would flow from the decision below. That self-censorhip, "would be a self-censorship affecting the whole public, hardly less virulent for being privately administered." Smith v. California, 361 U.S. 147, 154.

The decision below would permit grand jury investigation and mail fraud prosecution for any allegedly false factual statement in a book , which the government claimed induced a publisher to disseminate the work. But even if the decision had been limited to charges of fabricated accounts of interviews that allegedly never occcurred, some authors

who had conducted interviews might suppress reports of them for fear that in a grand jury investigation or prosecution, a "Deep Throat" or other "source" might refuse to confirm the interview or might deny it took place.

C. There Is No Compelling Interest That Justifies Grand Jury Probes Of A Book's Truth or Falsity.

The need to maintain First Amendment protection for false as well as true factual statements, to preserve the essential "breathing space" for freedom of expression, is far more "compelling" and "overriding" than the government's need to investigate or prosecute an author because his/her book contained allegedly false factual statements. The inhibiting future effect of such an investigation or prosecution on the freedom of expression of other authors, journalists, broad-

casters and film makers far more injures the public interest than the government's inability to investigate or prosecute the petitioner for publishing such statements in GOD'S BROKER. In addition to the First Amendment's compelling interest in protecting freedom of expression against the chilling effects of grand jury investigation or prosecution, these factors must be considered:

(a) Alleged false statements in a published work should be challenged and exposed in the marketplace of ideas. This, rather than government investigation or punishment, is the remedy prescribed by the First Amendment. "(t)he best test of truth is the power to get itself accepted in the competition of the market... That at any rate is the theory of our Constitution." Abrams v. United States, 250 U.S. 616, 630 (1919)

(Holmes, J., joined by Brandeis, J., dissenting). Thus, in Lebron v. Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, 749 F.2d 898-99 (D.C. Cir. 1984), the Court held invalid a governmental restraint imposed on a political message because of its alleged falsity. The truth of GOD´S BRO KER´s accounts of petitioner´s claimed Papal interviews already has been challenged in the marketplace of ideas. Newspapers and magazines have reported the charges by Vatican representatives and others that the book´s reports of those interviews were untrue. See, e.g.: "New Book on Pope Cause of Disagreement Between Vatican and Author", NEW YORK TIMES, May 20, 1984, page 61, Col. 1.

(b) If the petitioner´s publisher and the putative motion picture producer were defrauded by petitioner´s

acccounts in GOD´S BROKER of the Papal interviews, they have adequate remedies against him at civil law. Indeed, the producer already has invoked those remedies by filing a counterclaim for fraud in a suit petitioner brought against him for breach of contract.

(c) History does not support the claim of a compelling governmental need to investigate the alleged falsity of factual statements in published books or prosecute authors on the ground that these statements defrauded their publishers. The Republic has survived for two centuries without such inquisitions. In that time, "hoax" books, or alleged "hoax" books, have been published, and exposed in the marketplace of ideas.

(d) The First Amendment interest in shielding freedom of expression precludes a finding or assumption that petitioner´s

publisher was defrauded by GOD'S BROKER'S accounts of the Papal interviews. Such protracted conversations with the Pope are highly unique, and unusual. While book publishers cannot check the truth of every factual statement in an author's manuscript, a publisher's professional and moral responsibility to readers and and customers should impel it to verify the bona fides of such an unusual account before publishing the book. Public policy, and the overriding First Amendment interest, preclude the government from claiming "fraud", or an attempt to "defraud" the publisher or putative motion picture producer.

2. The First Amendment Precludes The Government From Compelling The Petitioner To Testify Or Provide Documents To The Grand Jury.

Even if the First Amendment does not bar a grand jury investigation (or

a prosecution) for mail fraud, there is - we submit - a serious First Amendment question which requires the Court's consideration, and warrants granting of the writ.

If the petitioner had invoked the Fifth Amendment, he could not have been compelled to testify about the challenged portions of GOD'S BROKER, nor for ced to produce his notes or records relating to them. The Authors League submits that the First Amendment also prevents the government and the courts from compelling an author to testify or produce documents concerning the falsity or truth of his/her writings. This Court has stressed that the First Amendment prohibits government from placing "the burden of proving the truth on the speaker, cf. Speiser v. Randall, 357 U.S. 513, 525-526", New York Times

v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. 254, 271.

In Talley v. California, 362 U.S. 60 (1960), striking down an ordinance that banned distribution of anonymous handbills, the Court noted that anonymous publications "have played an important role in the progress of mankind" and that prohibiting their anonymity would tend to restrict "freedom of expression" by exposing their authors to prosecution for publishng these works, citing other examples of this aspect of First Amendment protection against self-incrimination, Bates v. Little Rock, 361 U.S. 516 and N.A.A.C.P. v. Alabama, 357 U.S. 449,462 (362 U.S., at pp. 64-65)

These decisions manifest a strong First Amendment objection to compelling authors to provide evidence as to the alleged falsity of their books.

The Court of Appeals indicated that petitioner was obliged to plead the Fifth Amendment to avoid producing documents. But that plea is commonly read as a confession of guilt; here, a confession of writing falsehoods. We submit the First Amendment protects an author against the pressure to make that "confession", one of censorship's primary objectives.

CONCLUSION

The Authors League of America respectfully submits that a writ of certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
OCTOBER TERM, 1985

IN RE: GRAND JURY MATTER

Antoni Gronowicz, Petitioner,

v.

United States of America, Respondent

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR
THE THIRD CIRCUIT

BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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HOPP

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the First Amendment prohibits a criminal investigation into the truth of a book about a public issue, merely on the basis of allegations that the book is a fraud.

2. Whether the First Amendment prohibits the government from subpoenaing an author to testify or produce documents to a grand jury investigating the truth or falsity of statements in a book about a public issue.

3. Whether the First Amendment requires the government to justify a criminal inquiry into the truth of a book about a public issue by demonstrating a compelling interest, or by making a heightened showing of probable cause.

4. Whether the First Amendment or federal common law affords authors a

privilege to resist a criminal inquiry into the truth of a book about a public issue, unless the government can show that the author's testimony is unattainable from other sources, procurable only from the author and central to the inquiry.

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NO. 85-515

IN THE
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BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

INTRODUCTION

Having obtained the consent of the parties to this case,[1] amicus curiae The

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1/ Copies of the letters granting consent are being submitted with this brief.

American Civil Liberties Union submits this brief in support of Antoni Gronowicz's petition for a writ of certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Amicus adopts and incorporates herein those portions of Gronowicz's petition for certiorari setting forth the opinions below, the grounds for jurisdiction in this Court and the constitutional and statutory provisions involved. Amicus also adopts and incorporates the Statement of the Case in Gronowicz's petition, and adds the following statement of its interest in the matter:

The American Civil Liberties Union is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment and other provisions of the Bill of Rights.

Amicus has submitted briefs to this Court in appeals affecting freedom of expression. It filed briefs amicus curiae in this case in both the district court and the court of appeals, and participated in oral argument in the district court.

Amicus takes no position on the truth or falsity of Gronowicz's book. It files this brief, with the consent of the parties, to urge that the writ of certiorari sought by Gronowicz be granted, because the decision below raises unprecedented First Amendment questions, of great importance to authors and others who disseminate information to the public, which urgently require review by this Court.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

In both its genesis and its outcome below, this case is unprecedented. Never before has the federal government sought by its powers of criminal investigation to compel an author to verify his work. Never before has a federal court of appeals permitted the government to do so.

The evil inherent in this result was recognized by Thomas Jefferson 170 years ago:

> I am really mortified to be told that, in the United States of America, a fact like this can become a subject of inquiry, and of criminal inquiry too, as an offense against religion; that a question about the sale of a book can be carried before the civil magistrate. Is this then our freedom of religion? And are we to have a censor whose imprimatur shall say what books may be sold, and what we may buy? And who is thus to dogmatize religious opinions for our citizens? Whose foot is to be the measure to which ours are

> all to be cut or stretched? Is a priest to be our inquisitor, or shall a layman, simple as ourselves, set up his reason as the rule for what we are to read, and what we must believe? It is an insult to our citizens to question whether they are rational beings or not, and blasphemy against religion to suppose it cannot stand the test of truth and reason. If M. de Becourt's book be false in its facts, disprove them; if false in its reasoning, refute it. But, for God's sake, let us freely hear both sides, if we choose.

Letter to N.G. DuFief, April 19, 1814, in XIV Writings of Thomas Jefferson, 127 (Bergh. ed. 1907) (emphasis supplied). That this case has taken 200 years to arise best demonstrates the significance of the question it presents.

Broadly stated, that question is a simple one: whether the First Amendment protects an author from a criminal inquiry into the truth of a book about an important public issue. The majority below answered

that question with an unequivocal negative; neither the character of Gronowicz's book as speech on a public issue nor the impact of a criminal inquiry on truthful speech affected its analysis.

Moreover, the decision below cannot be limited to this case. Its broad language authorizes the government to inject itself, at any time and on the most evanescent justification, into the "uninhibited, robust, and wide-open" discussion by authors of public issues. See New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. 254, 270 (1964). The prior decisions of this Court -- including those relied on below -- do not support, and in fact forbid, such governmental encroachment into the First Amendment's core.

For these reasons, amicus submits that this Court should grant Gronowicz's petition for certiorari.

I. The Decision Below Raises Fundamental Unanswered Questions Of First Amendment Law That Deserve This Court's Immediate Attention.

"Speech on public issues occupies the 'highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values,' and is entitled to special protection." Connick v. Myers, 461 U.S. 138, 145 (1983), quoting NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co., 458 U.S. 886, 913 (1982). Gronowicz's book falls into this favored category. Its subject is the Pope, a "public figure for all purposes" under the First Amendment. See Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc., 418 U.S. 323, 345 (1974). Its scope is his impact on religious and political affairs, "a matter of public concern" by any definition. See Dun & Bradstreet, Inc. v. Greenmoss Builders, Inc., ___ U.S. ___, ___, 105 S.Ct. 2939, 2945-46 (1985); Time, Inc. v. Hill, 385 U.S. 374, 388 (1967).

The character of the book notwithstanding, the court of appeals authorized a criminal inquiry into its truth by the federal government, based only on allegations that the book was false. It reasoned that the "focus" of the inquiry was on Gronowicz's representations about the book and not the book itself. In re Grand Jury Matter, Gronowicz, 764 F.2d 983, 987 (3d Cir. 1985). It held these statements, if intentionally false, worthy of no First Amendment protection against inhibition, even when that restraint takes the form of a criminal investigation into their purported falsity. Id. at 988.

This reasoning discounts the paramount constitutional significance of the book, the inevitable focus of the investigation on the book's contents and the propensity of a criminal inquiry to deter truthful speech. As Judge Sloviter recognized below:

> I am not as disturbed as are some of my colleagues that lurking behind the book is the possibility of fraud. If either the publisher or the putative movie producer has in fact been defrauded, there is ample opportunity for them to recover in civil litigation. I am distressed because the majority fails to recognize the quintessential difference between the issue here and that presented by the civil libel cases from which it freely borrows - and that is the role played by the government and its ability to control, and even manipulate, the grand jury.

764 F.2d at 1001 (Sloviter, J., dissenting) (emphasis supplied). For three distinct but related reasons, the First Amendment implications of the majority's approach merit this Court's review.

A. This case affords the Court the opportunity to speak authoritatively on the constitutional difference between civil and criminal punishment for false speech.

Gronowicz wants the validity of his book to be judged in the "marketplace of ideas." See Abrams v. United States, 250 U.S. 616, 630 (1919). (Holmes and Brandeis, JJ., dissenting). Moreover, he has submitted his book's validity to the civil litigation process, by suing the purchaser of the movie rights for breach of contract and subjecting himself to a counterclaim for fraud. He objects only to the government's insinuating itself into this dispute through its criminal process. This case therefore raises the question of whether a difference of constitutional magnitude exists between civil and criminal punishment for false speech.

This Court has never squarely addressed that question. Although it has indirectly sanctioned criminal libel prosecutions, see Garrison v. Louisiana, 379 U.S. 64 (1964),[2] it has also exhibited profound unease at the concept of the government determining the truth of public speech. As pointed out below, 764 F.2d at 1000-01 (Sloviter, J., dissenting), Garrison itself suggested that criminal libel is appropriate, if at all, only in cases of imminent danger to the public peace. 379 U.S. at 69-70. See Ashton v. Kentucky, 384 U.S. 195, 198 (1966). Lower courts and commentators have read this Court's decisions to prohibit criminal libel altogether. See Tollett v. United States,

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2/ Garrison required a showing of "actual malice" to recover in a criminal libel prosecution against a public official. 379 U.S. at 76.

485 F.2d 1087, 1094 (8th Cir. 1973); United States v. Handler, 383 F. Supp. 1267, 1278 (D. Md. 1974); T. Emerson, The System of Free Expression 543 (1971).

The distinction between civil and criminal punishment is important because of the relative ability of each to "chill" truthful speech. See New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. at 273-79. As Judge Higginbotham observed below:

> The consequences, and hence the coercive potential, of criminal prosecutions are profoundly more onerous than those of civil actions. In this context I find it more difficult to indulge the assumption that punishment of knowing or reckless falsehood will not deter truthful speech.

764 F.2d at 997 (Higginbotham, J., dissenting) (footnote omitted).

Gronowicz based his First Amendment claim on this distinction, and the court of appeals flatly rejected it. The signifi-

cance of Gronowicz's book as public speech demonstrates how important that distinction can be. Accordingly, the Court should grant certiorari to speak authoritatively on this crucial constitutional question.

B. This Court should examine the conclusion below that an author's affirmation of his book's validity can, as a constitutional matter, be distinguished from the truth of the book itself.

Perhaps to minimize the constitutional significance of this case, the court of appeals found that the government's criminal inquiry "focused upon the truth or falsity of representations made by Gronowicz to . . . the publisher and [purchaser of movie rights]." 764 F.2d at 987. Similarly, the government argued below that these representations, rather than the book itself, formed the crux of the case and were

"commercial speech" entitled only to attenuated First Amendment protection. See id. at 995 (Higginbotham, J., dissenting).

Even if one accepts that the government's investigation focused on the truth of Gronowicz's representation about the book,[3/] this approach to characterizing speech has serious and troubling constitutional implications. This Court should address them.

In making "representations" about his book, Gronowicz was simply vouching for his book's authenticity to potential purchasers. These representations cannot logically be divorced from the truth of the book: As Judge Hunter pointed out below:

3/ Amicus believes, and would argue to this Court on the merits, that the indisputable focus of the government's inquiry is the truth of the book itself. The record below fully supports that position.

> [T]he majority refuses to acknowledge that in a case such as this, where the fraud consists solely of procuring publication of a book which the Government alleges is untrue, the purpose of the investigation must be to establish the truth of the book itself, and not merely the truth of the representations about the book. If the book is true, there can be no fraud.

764 F.2d at 992 (Hunter, J., dissenting).

Nor does the distinction between representations to purchasers about the book's validity and the truth of the book comport with existing First Amendment principles. Speech on public issues does not lose its protected character merely because it occurs under commercial auspices. Bolger v. Youngs Drug Products, 463 U.S. 60, 67 (1983); Joseph Burstyn, Inc. v. Wilson, 343 U.S. 495, 501-02 (1952). See Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. v. Public Service Comm'n of New York, 447 U.S.

557, 580 (1980) (Stevens, J., concurring in judgment).

Moreover, the government cannot restrain speech indirectly if that speech is protected against direct restraint. See Smith v. Daily Mail Pub. Co., 443 U.S. 97, 101-02 (1979). The protections of the First Amendment do not turn on such evanescent distinctions. See Dombrowski v. Pfister, 380 U.S. 479, 486-87 (1965); Smith v. California, 361 U.S. 147, 150-51 (1959). Cf. Lebron v. Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 749 F.2d 893, 898-99 (D.C. Cir. 1984) (ban on deceptive advertising violates First Amendment even as a "time, place and manner" regulation, since "assessment of the deceptiveness of a message necessarily involves a judgment about the substance and content of that message").

If the court of appeals' approach to Gronowicz's book is permitted, then written speech on public issues will lose a degree of First Amendment protection whenever its author vouches for its validity or offers it for sale. Amicus believes the First Amendment prohibits this result, and therefore urges this Court to review the distinction drawn below.

C. This Court should grant certiorari to consider under what circumstances, and to what extent, purportedly intentional false statements of fact are protected by the First Amendment.

The court of appeals reasoned that, since a false statement of fact intentionally made receives no First Amendment protection, the government could require Gronowicz to refute allegations that his book was a fraud. Because the book's

public importance is manifest, and because the government's criminal inquiry - perhaps based initially on anonymous information - constitutes such a severe restraint on speech, the decision below amounts to a holding that purportedly false statements of fact never deserve First Amendment protection. The fundamental constitutional significance of that holding demands this Court's review.

Contrary to the perception of the court of appeals, superficial reference to the unprivileged constitutional character of false factual statements cannot resolve this case. As often as this Court has stated that "there is no constitutional value in false statements of fact," see Gertz, 418 U.S. at 340, it has asserted, with equal if not greater force, that the First Amendment affords those statements some protection to

ensure that speech is not "chilled" by the threat of punishment. "[E]rroneous statement is inevitable in free debate, and ... must be protected if the freedoms of expression are to have the 'breathing space' that they 'need to survive.'" New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. at 271-72 (citation omitted).

Accordingly, the fundamental First Amendment issue presented by this case is whether the threat of a criminal prosecution by the government, whenever the facts in book are alleged to be false, will so deter truthful speech that free discussion will be inhibited. The decision below barely even addresses that issue. Instead, without reference to either the character of the speech or the severe deterrent effect of a criminal investigation, it simply allows the government to presume the speech false and

then validates that presumption under existing First Amendment precedent. Solicitude for the government's investigatory process swallows up the demands of the First Amendment; no attempt is made to balance the public interest in the government's investigation against the adverse effect of the investigation on free speech. See Branzburg v. Hayes, 408 U.S. 665, 710 (1972) (Powell, J., concurring).

This Court should grant certiorari to perform that essential constitutional balancing, taking into account the character of the speech, the inevitable focus on the truth of the book, and the deterrent effect of the threat of a criminal prosecution on speech.

Amicus believes that a criminal inquiry into the truth of Gronowicz's book effectively injects the government into a

dispute over a public issue, and that the proper First Amendment calculus absolutely prohibits such conduct. See New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. at 273-79 (discussing unconstitutionality of Sedition Act of 1798). Alternatively, amicus believes that the government must justify that inquiry with some compelling interest independent of prevention of crime, see Gibson v. Florida Legislative Investigating Committee, 372 U.S. 539, 546 (1963), or some heightened showing of probable cause, see In re Grand Jury Matter, Gronowicz, 764 F.2d at 991 (Becker, J., concurring). A related alternative, suggested below by Judge Higginbotham, 764 F.2d at 999, would afford Gronowicz a qualified constitutional privilege, akin to the "journalist's privilege" currently

recognized by every court of appeals that has addressed the question.[4/]

4/ See, e.g., Zerilli v. Smith, 656 F.2d 705 (D.C. Cir. 1981); Carey v. Hume, 492 F.2d 631 (D.C. Cir.), cert. dismissed, 417 U.S. 938 (1974); Bruno & Stillman, Inc. v. Globe Newspaper Co., 633 F.2d 583 (1st Cir. 1980); United States v. Burke, 700 F.2d 70 (2d Cir. 1980), cert. denied, ___ U.S. ___, 104 S. Ct. 72 (1983); In Re Petroleum Products Antitrust Litigation, 680 F.2d 5 (2d Cir.), cert. denied sub nom., Arizona v. McGraw-Hill, Inc., 459 U.S. 909 (1982); Baker v. F & F Investment, 470 F.2d 778 (2d Cir. 1972), cert. denied, 411 U.S. 966 (1973); United States v. Criden, 633 F.2d 346 (3d Cir. 1980), cert. denied sub. nom, Schaffer v. United States, 449 U.S. 1113 (1981); United States v. Cuthbertson, 630 F.2d 139 (3d Cir. 1980), cert. denied sub nom., Cuthbertson v. CBS, Inc., 449 U.S. 1126 (1981); Riley v. City of Chester, 612 F.2d 708 (3d Cir. 1979); United States v. Steelhammer, 539 F.2d 373 (4th Cir. 1976), rev'd in part on reh. en banc, 561 F.2d 539 (4th Cir. 1977); In Re Selcraig, 705 F.2d 789 (5th Cir. 1983); Miller v. Transamerican Press, Inc., 621 F.2d 721 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 450 U.S. 1041 (1981); Cervantes v. Time, Inc. 464 F.2d 986 (8th Cir. 1972), cert. denied, 409 U.S. 1125 (1973); Farr v. Pitchess, 522 F.2d 464 (9th Cir. 1975), cert. denied, 427 U.S. (continued)

However, the extent, if any, of First Amendment protection for purportedly intentional false statements of fact is not now before this Court. What is before it is the opportunity to address a fundamental constitutional question, which, as discussed below,[5] has wide-ranging application and has never been squarely addressed by the Court. Amicus urges this Court to seize that opportunity by granting Gronowicz's petition for a writ of certiorari.

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912 (1976); Silkwood v. Kerr-McGee Corp., 563 F.2d 433 (10th Cir. 1977). Although the Eleventh Circuit has not yet considered the issue, the Fifth Circuit opinions cited above are precedent within the Eleventh Circuit. Bonner v. City of Prichard, 661 F.2d 1206 (11th Cir. 1981).

5/ See Parts II and III of this section, infra.

II. In Both Breadth And Import, The Decision Below Jeopardizes The Ability Of Every Author Freely To Express Himself On Issues Of Public Interest.

The court of appeals opinion is not limited to the facts of this case. Its reasoning is applicable to any book, any magazine article, any writing whatsoever on a matter of public interest. Its consequences for the free flow of information about significant public issues are enormous; authors and journalists everywhere are now subject to intrusive criminal inquiry based solely upon a challenge to the validity of a published work. The far-reaching significance of this opinion justifies the grant of certiorari.

No writing on public issues can escape the effect of this case. In virtually every instance, the composition, publication and distribution of such writings involve use by

their authors of the mails and telephone system. Every author can be expected to vouch for the validity of his work. Moreover, in many instances - particularly when writing about public officials or public figures - authors must rely on sources whose existence cannot be proven after the fact. This important contribution to public debate will evaporate if authors risk criminal prosecution whenever a source refuses to corroborate a story, or is not available to do so.

That risk is both real and significant. Public issues are often controversial or sensitive, and authors who choose to write about them are subject to numerous uncertainties. Their sources may die, disappear, refuse to testify, withhold substantiation or recant. Their published writings may challenge orthodoxy or

entrenched interests. As Judge Sloviter pointed out below, the truth of such books as All the President's Men, Silent Spring, Unsafe at Any Speed and even The Origin of the Species would be subject to criminal investigation under the decision below. See 764 F.2d at 1001-02 (Sloviter, J., dissenting). That these books contain "facts" rather than "opinions" does nothing to diminish the threat to First Amendment freedoms that a criminal investigation of them would pose.

Were this Court to sanction the government's investigative actions, then the subject of any book or article might transform his dissatisfaction with it into a case of mail or wire fraud by disputing the sources claimed by the author. Alternatively, the government could instigate a criminal prosecution on its own

suspicion of invalidity. See 18 U.S.C. §§1341, 1343. The threat of either is sufficient to constrict the "breathing space" due First Amendment rights, see NAACP v. Button, 371 U.S. 415, 433 (1963), by inducing authors to avoid writing and publishing on controversial subjects. Such self-censorship, "compelled by the State, would be a censorship affecting the whole public, hardly the less virulent for being privately administered." Smith v. California, 361 U.S. at 154.

If the decision below is allowed to stand, any author preparing a book or article on controversial public or social issues might be deterred from publishing factual statements on dangerous matters by the chilling effect of a possible grand jury investigation or criminal inquiry. This Court should grant certiorari to review the

enormous impact of the decision on First Amendment rights.

III. Prior Decisions Of This Court Do Not Support, And In Fact Conflict With, The Decision Below.

This Court should also grant certiorari to consider the proper application of its prior decisions to this unprecedented case. Neither the court of appeals' decision nor the government's position below, which that decision adopts, fully acknowledges that the case involves more than the government's power to conduct a routine grand jury investigation. That failure undermines the reliance placed on this Court's precedent.

For example, both Herbert v. Lando, 441 U.S. 153 (1979), relied on by the court of appeals, and Branzburg v. Hayes, 408 U.S. 665 (1972), relied on by the government, do

not support the decision below. Neither case involved an attempt by the government to inject itself into a debate over the truth of speech on a public issue; nothing in either case sanctions such an inquiry.

In Branzburg, the government sought testimony from a reporter who had observed a crime and published an account of its circumstances. See 408 U.S. at 667-79. There the government accepted the story as true and sought further particulars; here the government's inquiry is predicated on the assumption that the published account (the book) is invalid. In Branzburg, the government presumed that the crime under investigation was accurately described in the published account; here the alleged crime is the published account itself. The Court in Branzburg recognized this distinction when it noted that "no penalty,

civil or criminal, related to the content of published material is at issue here." 408 U.S. at 681. Thus, the factors that the government alleges make this case "weaker" than Branzburg are the very factors that make Branzburg inapposite.

Herbert v. Lando is even less relevant. Herbert was a civil libel action in which the public figure plaintiff sought access to the media defendants' mental processes and editorial discussions for the purpose of proving "actual malice" in publication. The Supreme Court held that such access was consistent with the requirements of New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, supra, and was not prohibited by the First Amendment. See 441 U.S. at 169. In so doing, the Court noted that the

inhibition flowing from such a rule would not unduly discourage publication of true information. Id. at 171.

In this case, Gronowicz has not objected, and does not object, to the principle laid down in Herbert v. Lando. To the contrary, he has, by filing suit against the purchaser of movie rights to his book, affirmatively invited the sort of inquiry that Herbert allows. He thus does not object to any inhibition thereby imposed on the publication of knowingly or recklessly false information. He seeks protection from a different sort of inhibition altogether: the prospect that he, and any other author who attempts to address a public issue, must risk criminal prosecution if he cannot convince the government, and not just the public or a civil jury, that his expression is true.

Moreover, the risk is especially pernicious in cases such as this one. Authors like Gronowicz are often put in a position where the source of their published information cannot be produced for verification. Yet the government would here force Gronowicz to validate the statements in his book, without even the adversary safeguards that attend such an inquiry in civil litigation. Shifting the burden of proof to the speaker in this manner is constitutionally impermissible in First Amendment cases. See Speiser v. Randall, 357 U.S. 513, 526-29 (1958).

> Under such a rule, would-be critics of official conduct may be deterred from voicing their criticism, even though it is believed to be true and even though it is in fact true, because of doubt whether it can be proved in court or fear of the expense of having to do so. They tend to make only statements which "steer far wider of the unlawful zone."

> The rule thus dampens the vigor and limits the variety of public debate. It is inconsistent with the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

New York Times Co., 376 U.S. at 279 (citation omitted).

Similarly, the court of appeals cannot justify the government's criminal inquiry simply because it is a "post-publication sanction" rather than a prior restraint. See 764 F.2d at 987-88. Prior decisions of this Court make clear that in appropriate circumstances, post-publication restraints may be prohibited, limited to areas of compelling governmental interest or otherwise constitutionally circumscribed. See Smith v. Daily Mail Pub. Co., 443 U.S. at 101-02; Gibson v. Florida Legislative Investigating Committee, 372 U.S. at 546-47; Smith v. California, 361 U.S. at 154. The question presented by

this case is whether such "appropriate circumstances" exist. The court of appeals' failure to perceive that question, and consequent misreading of this Court's precedent, is another reason for granting certiorari.

Finally, cases like United States v. Ballard, 322 U.S. 78 (1944), relied on below, do not control this one. Ballard involved a challenge to a criminal prosecution based on the First Amendment's religion clauses, and not on the amendment's free speech guarantees. Moreover, Ballard held only that a court may not submit the truth of a defendant's religious beliefs to a jury, 322 U.S. at 88; it did not address the question of whether, or under what circumstances, the government may predicate a criminal inquiry into the truth of a book on an allegation that the book is false.

This Court has consistently demonstrated a preference that allegedly false speech be remedied by competing speech rather than government regulation. See Whitney v. California, 274 U.S. 357, 377 (1927) (Brandeis and Holmes, JJ., dissenting); see also Linmark Associates, Inc. v. Township of Willingboro, 431 U.S. 85, 97 (1977). It has recognized that false speech on public issues - or the possibility that such speech may be false - must sometimes be accepted to protect open debate. New York Times Co., supra. It has acknowledged the dangers inherent when the government's coercive power is employed to punish or restrict speech. Garrison v. Louisiana, supra.

The decision below notwithstanding, this Court has never brought these principles to bear on a case like this one;

its prior decisions in the areas of civil libel and journalist's privilege do not dictate their proper application. This Court should grant Gronowicz's petition for a writ of certiorari to examine this case in the light of its prior First Amendment precedent.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, amicus curiae the American Civil Liberties Union respectfully requests this Court to grant the petition of Antoni Gronowicz for a writ of certiorari in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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